

## Relief camps will shelter 300,000 but Kurds may have to wait two weeks for them to open

### US troops move in to set up safe havens

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AMERICAN troops moved into northern Iraq yesterday to start setting up safe havens for hundreds of thousands of Kurdish refugees. But the Pentagon said it could take two weeks for the camps to be operational.

America, Britain and France are sending up to 13,000 troops to build, run and guard half a dozen camps, each of which will shelter about 60,000 refugees. The first US forces were ordered into action as President Bush announced the strategy on Tuesday.

By midday yesterday, potential sites on flat ground near Zakho and Dahuk had been identified from aerial photographs, and military survey teams were flown in by helicopter to inspect them.

If the sites were suitable, engineers and construction teams would begin building the camps tomorrow or Friday, while other troops would forge supply lines using roads, railways and helicopters. When the camps were ready, the American psychological



Canvas slum: the bleak view across the Kurdish camp at Isikveren, in southern Turkey, where 150,000 refugees are living on a mountainside amid a sea of mud and excrement

### Too frightened to seek camp refuge

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN ISIKVEREN

DESPITE nightmarish conditions, more shocking in the flesh than anything depicted by television footage, many of the refugee Kurds are either too frightened or too sick to contemplate a return on foot over the snow-capped mountains to the safe havens promised by President Bush.

Yesterday, as heavy lorries bringing American military equipment raced towards the new forward base at Silopi in their hundreds, many refugees flatly refused to walk back towards Iraq, even when Kurdish women telling reporters that she would only go if the US organised an airlift. Meanwhile hundreds of new refugees continue to swarm down the mountainsides from Iraq.

Deaths are now so frequent at this, the largest and most horrendous of the 12 Kurdish refugee camps in Turkey, that inmates no longer have enough spades to dig graves in

### New European bank hit by investment wrangles

Bitter wrangling has broken out between the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, launched in London this week, and some of its key shareholders over its involvement in eastern Germany.

The dispute is understood to have led to a clash between Jacques Attali, the bank's president, who is strongly in favour of it taking a stake in eastern German companies, and Nicholas Brady, the United States treasury secretary, who has opposed the idea on the grounds that eastern Germany is primarily the responsibility of the German government and the European Community.

There appears also to exist a covert and rare alliance between the Americans and the European Commission, which is also a shareholder in the bank and is worried

about its political aspirations, fearing it could emerge as a competing institution.

The United States, with a 10 per cent stake the bank's biggest shareholder, has led the internal opposition to M. Attali's desire to invest in Germany, and has the support of some of the bank's other large shareholders. According to one official, M. Attali was shouted down at a meeting before the bank's official launch. He wanted the bank's merchant banking arm to participate by way of small equity investments in the eastern German privatisation process, the largest

operation of its kind. M. Attali wants to invest in eastern Germany partly because the privatisation process there is more advanced and structured than in other Central and East European countries, and also because the country promises a wide range of lucrative investment opportunities.

The merchant banking operation is the European Bank's key pillar, since its private-sector engagements will account for about 60 per cent of its 10 billion Ecu (£7 billion) capital. The merchant bank, like any private sector bank, will operate on sound financial principles and, according to one source, the absence of Germany in its portfolio is likely to make this task more difficult.

#### GOOD WRITING IN THE TIMES

**BOOKS**  
Victoria Glendinning reviews a meditation on the suffering of rich middle-class mothers, a witty tale told in letters Page 16

**COLUMN**  
Bernard Levin says that sending men to Mars is useless, which is surely the best possible reason for going there Page 8

**FILMS**  
Geoff Brown on the unlikely sight of Mad Max as the Mad Dane: so how does Mel Gibson wear the Hamlet mantle? Page 17

#### Clarke's offer

Teachers will be given a pay review body provided they agree not to take industrial action in support of pay and conditions, Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, said yesterday. Page 24

#### Teacher cleared

An unemployed teacher accused of murdering his parents for money was acquitted after a forensic scientist said he was innocent. Page 5

#### Scottish quality

Families in Scotland have the best quality of life in Britain, according to a report published today. Page 12

#### Maxwell sale

Mirror Group Newspapers, Robert Maxwell's newspaper company, is being floated on the stockmarket. Page 25  
Andy Capp float, page 27

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### UN clashes with West over forces for northern Iraq

By JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND ROBIN OAKLEY IN LONDON

THE United Nations clashed directly with the United States, Britain and France yesterday as Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN secretary-general, challenged the West's legal right to deploy troops in northern Iraq to establish refugee camps.

He said a UN team was working on its own plan, and United Nations officials said an imminent UN agreement with Baghdad was now at risk. A UN official in Baghdad said President Bush was "on a collision course with the UN".

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said in the Commons that the safe havens would eventually come under UN control. Government officials expressed frustration over UN "hesitancy", and said the announcement of the Western initiative had been

delayed on Tuesday night while the United States and Britain "leaned on" Señor Pérez de Cuellar. But the secretary-general made it clear in Paris yesterday that he still had strong doubts. He said the presence of foreign military personnel in Iraq posed a problem from the moral and humanitarian point of view.

Asked in Paris if he thought the Western military presence should be established in Iraq without Iraqi approval, the secretary-general said: "No, no, no."

He added: "We have in any case to be in touch first of all with the Iraqis. It is a question of sovereignty."

He said the UN team in Baghdad was discussing the creation of "reception centres" both for Kurdish refugees and for Shia Muslims.

In Baghdad, Erik Suy, the UN special envoy, said Iraq had agreed to the creation of "humanitarian centres" but not to Western troops. This created an "absolutely new element in the light of which we will have to reconsider our position."

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, co-ordinator of the UN relief effort in the Gulf, meanwhile announced in Baghdad that the signing of an agreement on the UN operation with the Iraqi government, due yesterday, had been postponed at Baghdad's request.

Mr Hurd praised the prime minister's perseverance with the safe havens idea "when many clever people were saying it was washed up and would never happen."

### Lies, damned lies and the cost of corset laces

By ALAN HAMILTON

OH YES, those were the days. In 1914 you could buy a pound of beef, half a stone of flour, a pound each of tea and sugar, and a four-pound loaf, and still have change out of four bob. Nowadays, with the purchasing power of a pre-World War pound reduced to a little over 2p, the same amount would just about buy you a box of matches and a very quick phone call and the same grocery basket would cost, at the very least, £8.50.

To celebrate its 50th anniversary, the Central Statistical Office has produced an historical study of the retail prices index and its precursor, the cost-of-living index.

Being the damned lies they are, statistics must be regarded with some caution but they do show the shifting priorities of life over 77 years. When

the cost-of-living index was first introduced in 1914, the basket of essentials upon which it was based included hard soap, candles, corset laces, table mangles, banister brushes and workmen's omnibuses and tramcar fares. Today's RPI traces the cost of such necessities as frozen ready-cooked meals, microwave ovens, telephones, compact disc players, videos, tumble driers and satellite dishes. There is not a corset lace or candle in sight.

Inflation does not rise inexorably; it only seems that way. Over the years the annual rate of change has swung between a record fall of 28 per cent in 1972, reflecting the depression which followed the post-war boom, and a record increase of 26.9 per cent, which caused Harold Wilson sleepless nights in 1975. But it has nevertheless been

rising for long enough; the last recorded fall was in 1960, and that was only 0.5 per cent.

Between 1914 and 1920 prices rose two and a half times, bringing misery to the corset lace and banister brush buyers of the urban poor, during the depression years of the twenties and thirties they fell to early wartime levels.

By the end of the Second World War prices were approximately double their 1914 levels. But inflation is properly a disease of the post-war years; since 1947 prices have increased eighteen-fold, which may help to explain why nobody buys corset laces any more.

We spend on different things now. In 1956, food accounted for 35 per cent of family spending; by last year it had fallen to 16 per cent. In the same

period motoring costs rose from three to 13 per cent of family spending. As for banister brushes, the government does not even bother to collect the figures now.

Even since 1953, the upward spiral of inflation has been horribly impressive. In that year 20 cigarettes cost the equivalent of 21p; by January 1991 they had risen to 171p. In the same period a pint of milk rose from 3p to 32p, a pound of cheese from 5p to 151p, and a pint of beer from 9p to 116p or more.

Wages, of course, have risen to match. A bricklayer who earned 40s 7d (£2.03) a week in 1914 would now collect about £200, thus allowing him to keep his wife comfortably in corset laces and table mangles, and perhaps even leaving enough over for a compact disc.

### APPEAL FOR KURDISH REFUGEES

The International Refugee Year Trust is the only agency to have had an emergency response team working in the area since this crisis began. Help stop the genocide NOW. Your donation will help us to get medical supplies, shelter and food to Kurdish refugees on the move. There are 2.8 million of them, so please be generous.

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Behind the scenes: George Bush had been contemplating a "security zone" solution to the plight of the Kurdish refugees, but Washington was caught on the hop when the Turkish president, Turgut Ozal, went on television to disclose his idea for a "buffer zone". John Major then smartly unveiled his own plan for "safe havens" for the Kurds — but it took a diplomatic deal with Mr Mitterrand to win him French support

## How the Kurds were saved from Saddam

The creation of a safe haven for the Kurds inside Iraq was achieved only after a fortnight of intense manoeuvring. The man who displayed the greatest diplomacy on the world stage was

the prime minister. For, as Nicholas Wood in London and Martin Fletcher in Washington report, it was his skills which turned a scheme fraught with political difficulties into reality.

THE lowest point in John Major's 15-day personal Odyssey to bring succour to the legions of dispossessed Kurds dying in their thousands of cold and hunger in the mountains of northern Iraq came at Arsenal football club a fortnight ago yesterday.

The prime minister, a keen Chelsea supporter, could not have been comforted by the sight of their London rivals crushing Aston Villa 5-0. But far more painful for him was the realisation that Margaret Thatcher, his predecessor, had emerged from enforced retirement to champion the cause of the refugees.

That same afternoon, Mrs Thatcher had stepped onto her Belgrave pavement to tell the world that "legal niceties" could not be allowed to stand in the way of a people's salvation. Mr Major, already under fire for his alleged dithering over the poll tax, could have imagined the rest. The Kurdish emigrants duly obliged, letting it be known that they had appreciated the chance to talk to a "doer not a ditherer".

By the time he had reached Highbury stadium, Mr Major, from the comfort of his bullet-proof Daimler, had acted to limit the damage. After frantic discussions with his aides, including at least three telephone calls during the match, he brought forward the announcement of an outline

plan to bring relief to the Kurds.

Nevertheless, the morning headlines made grim reading. "The voice of conscience... it takes Maggie to speak out for the Kurds" trumpeted the *Daily Mail* over a story contrasting George Bush's enthusiasm for golf and Mr Major's passion for football with Mrs Thatcher's sense of occasion. That Thursday, April 4, Mr Major cut short his week's break in Huntingdon to return to London to take charge of the biggest political problem to hit his desk since arriving in the hot seat.

As ever in politics, the criticism was not totally fair. According to one senior Foreign Office source yesterday, after witnessing the harrowing scenes on television of the Kurds fleeing from President Saddam Hussein's avenging army, the prime minister had been driving forward an international relief operation on behalf of the Kurds two days before Mrs Thatcher dramatically raised the stakes.

Tristan Garel-Jones, the Foreign Office duty minister during the Easter recess, had been left in no doubt of the prime minister's intentions by Stephen Wall, his private secretary responsible for foreign affairs, on the Monday before. "The message was simple: this thing is serious. We want action now," the

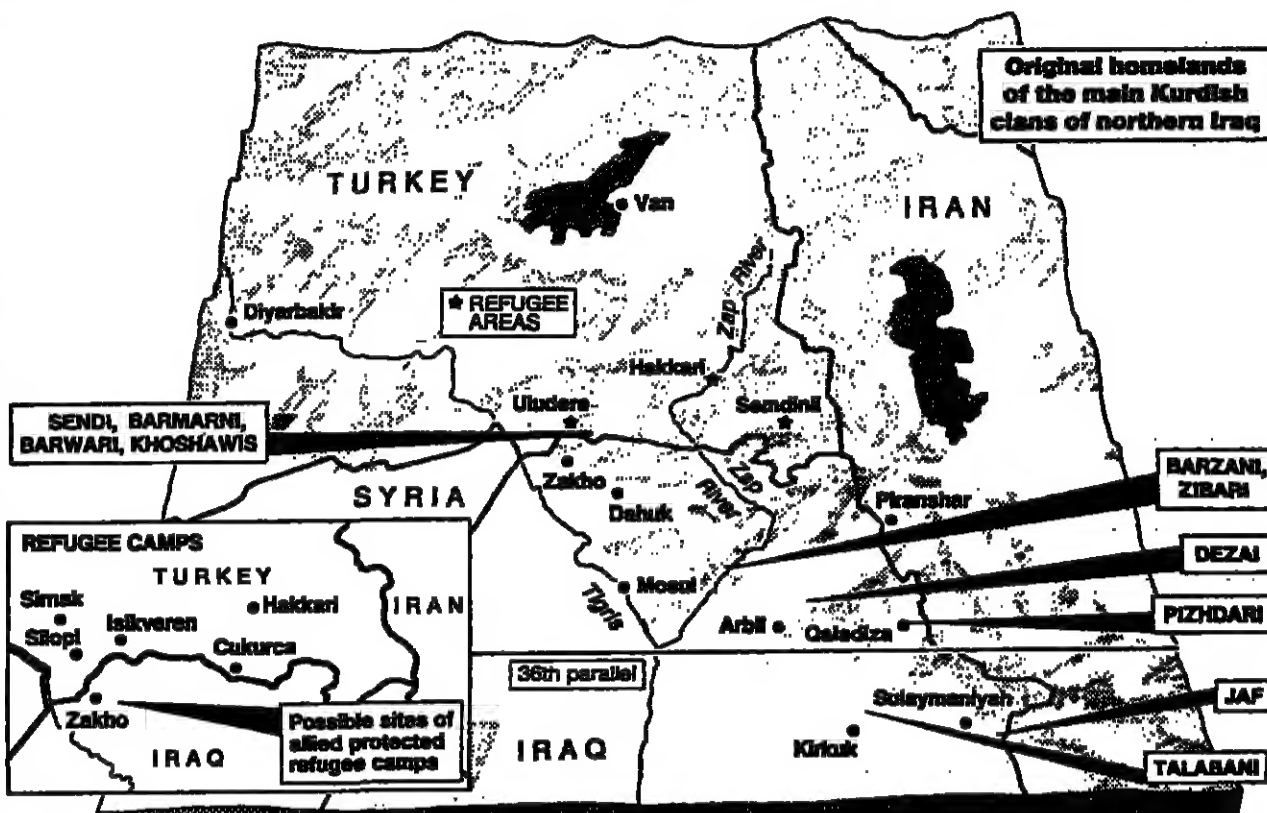
source said yesterday. But for the next two days Whitehall's wheels ground slowly as the Overseas Development Administration wavered over the £20 million costs of the Major plan.

By Wednesday, even before Mrs Thatcher's sensational intervention, things were beginning to take shape. On Thursday, April 4, Mr Major gave details of the £20 million mountain airlift, while still ruling out military intervention. But the real work was going on behind the scenes on a plan that was to take the European Community and the Americans unawares at special summit of EC leaders in Luxembourg on the following Monday.

With Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, on top of Taishan, China's most sacred mountain, Mr Major took personal charge of what was to be unveiled as the safe havens plan in Luxembourg. As one delighted minister put it yesterday, "he saw the greasy ball lying on the grass, scooped it up, rubbed it twice on his shirt, put his head down, and ran for the line. It was magic."

The prime minister had "bounced" both the Americans and the Europeans into following Britain's lead.

The details of the prime minister's "safe haven" plan were not finalised until he reached Luxembourg on the Monday of the EC summit.



## Policy of Iraq erodes loyalty to clans

By HAZKIE TEIMOURIAN

ALTHOUGH many of the Iraqi Kurds seeking refuge along the borders of Turkey and Iran would describe themselves as belonging to tribes, the word clan would more accurately describe their social structures. The great majority maintain only tenuous links with their former chiefs, and they are certainly no longer nomadic.

Most are, voluntarily or otherwise, settled in towns or "resettlement camps" especially created by the government of Iraq to make supervision over the Kurds' movements easier.

It is estimated that at least three thousand Kurdish villages were razed during the 1980s to deprive Kurdish guerrillas of support in the countryside and to facilitate the forced assimilation of the Kurds into Arab culture. As villages were the heartland of tribal loyalties, the traditional social structure of the Kurds suffered badly.

Another important factor undermining tribal loyalties has been the natural growth of towns, which have attracted villagers searching for jobs and higher standards of living. The city of Arbil, one of the most ancient cities of the world, with archaeological records indicating some eleven thousand years of continuous human habitation, has seen its population grow rapidly during this century.

The emotional pull of the clan, however, remains strong in many parts of Kurdistan and is often romanticised in songs and novels even where such works are banned.

● **Havens welcomed:** The leader of one of the main Iraqi Kurdish resistance groups yesterday welcomed the announcement of the creation of safe havens for Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq (Nicholas Watt writes).

Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, told Radio 4's *Today* programme that the announcement was a "good step forward". But he warned that it was not enough in itself.

"The Kurdish problem is not a problem of refugees. It is the problem of escaping the dangers of assimilation, of genocide, of deportation."

But before he announced them, he secured another diplomatic deal with President Mitterrand of France.

In the shadow of the summit, the French chaired a meeting of the Western European Union which pledged itself to the UN, set about persuading the Russians and the Chinese that by interfering in Iraq Britain was not seeking to set a precedent for Georgia and Tibet.

Mr Major's enclave proposal received the chilliest of receptions in Washington. Unwilling publicly to snub an ally, Martin Fitzwater, the White House press secretary, instead damned it with faint praise, saying it had "some merits" and was "worthy of consideration". Privately senior administration officials complained that the British had failed to consult Washington before putting the idea to the EC and listed a string of objections.

On the flight to Luxembourg, Mr Major was warned about the risks of pressing his scheme by close advisers. "He was warned that the US was not on board and that the administration wanted to get their troops back home," one insider said. "He was told he would need troops to make the safe havens plan work. We all said to him 'we cannot guarantee success on this. You have to realise there is a possibility of failure and that the Americans and the Europeans might say no.'"

Mr Major, perhaps determined to rid himself of the dithering tag once and for all, was adamant that they should press on. Backed by Douglas Hogg, junior minister at the Foreign Office, he told his officials: "It's the right thing to do. Get on with it." At the prime minister's behest, Mr O'Donnell performed one vital service, translating the muddled words of the Foreign Office into a four-point plan that could be ready assimilated by the media.

The Americans were told of the plan only after the prime minister arrived in Luxem-

bourg. Mr Wall briefed Brent Scowcroft, the national security adviser, and Mr Major sent a message direct to President Bush. Sir David Hannay, Britain's ambassador to the UN, set about persuading the Russians and the Chinese that by interfering in Iraq Britain was not seeking to set a precedent for Georgia and Tibet.

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Hoping for a haven: a Kurdish woman and baby wait for transfer from the refugee camp at Isikveren, Turkey

## Mountain strongholds conceal a race apart

By PHILIP HOWARD

THE Kurds in their mountain fastnesses have kept themselves to themselves in history and literature, apart from sporadic invasion and genocide, now happening again. Yet they have remained in the same place for longer than most other races on earth, perhaps because it is so undesirable and inhospitable a place, though wildly beautiful, if you like romantic scenery.

The oldest Sumerian records show that not later than 2000 BC a people called Kuti, later Kurrie, was living in the mountainous region of the upper Tigris. Persian epic poems record the great Kurdish tribes, the Bokhtis, the Mukris, the Habadaniis, the Miharis, the Babans and others, as existing as early as the 6th century BC, and living the same sort of life as

today. This makes them the oldest aristocracy in the world.

The ancient Greeks and Romans thought the Kurds were the original Aryans, the great-grandfathers of all Indo-Europeans, and called them Medes. Herodotus is interesting about their system of devolved rule, as opposed to Persian direct rule. He describes their dress in the army of Xerxes: "They wore on their heads loose caps called tiaras and, on their bodies, sleeved tunics of blended colours, and corselets with iron plates, something like fish scales; on their legs, trousers; and instead of shields they had wicker bucklers."

They make frequent guest appearances in the bible. When King Darius wants to deliver Daniel from the lions' den into which he has been cast, his think-tank and policy advisers tell him: "Know, O king, that the

law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree or statute which the king establisheth may be changed." So they gave us one of the oldest proverbs in English, mediated by our richest well of language and catchphrase, the Authorised Version. Here is Wilkes's chum, Charles Churchill, trotting out the old saw again in a poem called *Ghonor* in 1762: "For what his greatness hath decreed, Like laws of Persia and of Mede, Must never of repeal admit."

The name of Kurd appears in English literature, though not as often as Mede. The Kurds appear as spear-carriers, naturally, in Gibbon: "The arrows of the Carduchians. Their posterity, the Kurds, acknowledge the nominal sovereignty of the Turkish sultan." Byron: "Asia, where Kaff looks down on Kurd." Newman: "Saladin was a Kurd." T. E.

Lawrence: "It was an ordinary bell tent, furnished with a fairly good Kurd rug, a poor Shirazi, and a delightful old Baluch prayer-carpet on which he prayed." D. M. Lang: "Many of the neighbours of the Armenians in antiquity have vanished from the map, like the Hittites; or relapsed into barbarism, like the Kurds, descendants of the proud Medes."

Because they are out of the main tide of history, apart from invasion by Arabs, Mongols, Turks and Iraq, the Kurds did not attract many of the curious band of English travel writers. But John Cartwright wrote in *Purchas his Pilgrimes* in 1625: "The Cardies some think to be a remnant of the ancient Parthians. These rude people are of a goodly stature, and well proportioned, and doe never goe abroad without their Armes."

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IRAQ

# Baghdad rejects safe haven scheme as internal meddling

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN MOSCOW

THE Iraqi government yesterday denounced as meddling in its internal affairs, allied plans to set up refugee camps in northern Iraq, but did not repeat last week's veiled threat that it would use force to resist them.

President Bush's announcement that the protected camps were to be established, was welcomed by Turkey, whose president was the first to envisage safe havens in Iraq that would remove hundreds

of thousands of Kurdish refugees from its soil. However, Iranian officials were understood to be angered by the prospect of Western forces near Iran's border guarding camps that may not even alleviate its huge refugee burden.

FRANCE

## UN chief says Iraq should be consulted

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

AS FRANCE prepared to dispatch some 180 troops to aid the setting-up of Kurdish refugee camps within Iraq, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations secretary-general, emerged from a meeting with President Mitterrand here yesterday to argue that Iraq had the right to be consulted.

After an hour of talks in the Elysée palace, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar told journalists that the UN wished to make contact with the Iraqi authorities "to discover what their response would be to the presence of military forces of these three countries on their territory".

If the intention is to cloak this presence with the authority of the UN, he pointed out, then the security council would have to give its consent. "On the other hand, if the

countries involved are not intending to operate under the flag of the UN, that would be an entirely different matter."

For Señor Pérez de Cuéllar, the presence of French, British and American troops within Iraq is an extremely sensitive issue. "I have been studying this situation with great attention on how to respect the sovereignty of Iraq," he pointed out. "We hope that the Iraqis will understand that the objective of this exercise is purely humanitarian."

Bernard Kouchner, the French minister for humanitarian affairs, announced in Paris that it was intended that the Franco-British-American plan should be "developed" with the aid of the UN. "Naturally something like this would be done within the UN system," he added.

per efforts by UN envoys in Baghdad to help the refugees. "Such an attitude is a continuation of the policy of intervention in Iraq's internal affairs," Mr Khudayer told the state-run Iraqi news agency. He said that in practical terms the safe havens plan was unnecessary because Iraq had already agreed in principle to allow unarmed UN personnel to set up "humanitarian centres" in northern and southern Iraq for Kurds and Shiites.

Kurdish leaders praised President Bush's plan as an important step forward, but called for a permanent solution to the Kurdish problem. Iraqi Shia leaders called for similar action to protect their people. President Bush said this would be achieved by a UN buffer zone in southern Iraq, but many Shiites believe the 1,400 lightly armed UN peacekeepers will not be able to guarantee their safety.

Saddam Hammadi, Iraq's prime minister, emphasised that Iraq was willing to co-operate with Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, a veteran UN official in overall charge of the organisation's relief efforts in Iraq and Kuwait, and Eric Stry, a Belgian envoy in Iraq for the UN. Baghdad also insists that 90,000 Kurds have gone back to their homes since President Saddam Hussein first offered them amnesty more than a week ago, and they were receiving plenty of food and medical supplies. Refusing to accept any blame for the refugees' plight, Iraq insists it is the result of a sinister American-led plot fomented by Iran, Turkey and Syria, to carve up Iraq.



Clean sweep: a Kurdish mother gathers her son after bath time in a camp at Silopi

IRAN

## Role of West poses dilemma for Rafsanjani

FROM EDWARD GORMAN IN TEHRAN

THE decision to go ahead with plans for safe areas in northern Iraq has left the Iranian government out in the cold. Tehran is coping with the largest number of Kurdish refugees and, according to Western diplomats, seems in a dilemma about how to respond.

"They haven't made up their minds what they want," commented one senior Western envoy, who said Tehran has been wrongfooted since the concept of a safe haven or enclave was first mooted. "They have a real dilemma, which they haven't resolved, which has important political and humanitarian dimensions," he added.

Throughout the Gulf confrontation, President Rafsanjani's approach has combined conflicting impulses. Like the United States, Iran does not want to see Iraq break up, and, like America, it wants President Saddam Hussein pushed out of power.

But despite denouncing the invasion and annexation of Kuwait, it has also attacked American and allied military involvement in the region and called for a withdrawal. Recently it has blamed America for encouraging the Kurds in their uprising, and for ignoring the plight of refugees on the Iran-Iraq border.

Tehran has been shut out of the president's plan because it is largely a response to Turkey's needs and because of the continuing deep fracture in American-Iranian relations. It can be expected to criticise the proposals because they involve further deployments of allied troops and will fuel fears here that the Americans are not sincere in their undertakings to withdraw from the region.

The Iranian government is understandably nervous of any solution to the Kurdish problem which helps to formalise Kurdish aspirations to a separate or autonomous state, and the implications that may have for millions of Kurds living on the Iranian side of the border.

However, President Rafsanjani has made it clear he wishes to see the eventual repatriation of refugees from Iran. Some observers believe he may choose publicly to

distance himself from the American plan, while allowing or encouraging as many refugees to return home under its auspices as wish to do so. This will require careful presentation by the president, who cannot afford to be seen by his people to be participating in, or endorsing, an American-brokered solution.

## Germany raises aid offer

Beam - The plight of the Kurds has aroused more German anger against President Saddam Hussein than the invasion of Kuwait (Ian Murray writes). In a Bundestag debate yesterday, speakers of all parties spoke out vehemently against the Iraqi leader.

The government yesterday agreed to make DM250 million (£84 million) available for humanitarian aid to the Kurdish refugees, a significant increase. The money is in addition to Bonn's contribution of DM60 million to the aid package put together by the European Community and the DM100 million being spent on transport.

Germany also offered to fly seriously injured refugees to Germany for treatment.

## Newsman killed

Amman - A Romanian-German photographer covering the Kurdish rebellion for *Newsweek* was reportedly shot dead by Iraqi soldiers in northern Iraq on March 29. Frank Smyth, an American freelance who saw the incident, described the killing of Gad Gross as a "spontaneous execution". (AP)

## Hunger strike

Strasbourg - About 200 Kurdish sympathisers, some waving banners reading "Democracy for Kuwait, genocide for Kurdistan", demonstrated outside the European parliament yesterday. Twenty-five demonstrators were on the third day of a hunger strike. (Reuters)

NORTHERN IRAQ

## Saddam's promises fail to fill the wasteland

FROM ADAM KELLNER IN ZAKHO

THE welcoming committee of soldiers and Baathist party members sat at the edge of town, wondering if their Kurdish subjects would listen to their promises and come home.

The Iraqi government wants its Kurds back, but President Saddam Hussein's promise that all is forgiven has been mostly ignored. On a wobbly table at an intersection on the outskirts of Zakho, just ten miles from Turkey, sits the reason for Kurdish doubt. It is an A4-size book in which each returnee must register their name before being transported further south in buses and lorries.

Despite assurances of an amnesty, and a UN plan to send observers, people who register could be made accountable, something that those huddled in Turkey and Iran must desperately wish to avoid.

The government says nearly 88,000 have returned in the past week, but most have come from the Iraqi mountains, with few from across the frontier. A group of 65 Kurds was brought to the Zakho registering point on Tuesday. There were no young men: they were grimy and dishevelled women, children and the elderly, their lethargy only disappearing in a scramble for a handout of milk powder. The group described ter-

rrible conditions in the mountains, and said Iraqi authorities had treated them well upon return. "This is the welcoming committee," beamed Hakimid Cesar Ahmad, Zakho's Baathist party representative, dressed in military fatigues and camouflage-coloured slip-on shoes. "They are not asked any questions. There is no interrogation. We only ask them how they managed to get out of the hands of the rebels." The government claims the population were duped into fleeing by lurid tales of Iranian-backed



Giving notice: a fearful refugee child in Safwan sends his plaintive message to the West

rebels that all who remained would be killed.

Now, Iraqi officials say, the refugees cannot return because rebels are stopping them as part of an allied plan to use the issue to destabilise Iraq. First Lieutenant Nadim Mustafa Majid, in charge of registering returnees, said: "We are not satisfied with the numbers coming back but what can we do? We cannot attack (the rebels) because the people will be killed."

More than rumour, memories of government brutality during past Kurdish uprisings inspired the exodus. In Dabuk, only 10 per cent of the 400,000 residents remain. An elderly cripple, a grizzled beggar and a small cluster of youths were the only inhabitants of the shuttered main street. "The whole city has gone, people were afraid of the government," said one young man. The only activity was from soldiers patrolling the empty streets or manning their armour, imposing security in a land without people.

Above the mountains flew three US Air Force C130 transport planes on a mission to drop relief supplies, some of which has ended up sustaining the Iraqi army. "It is very good," said one private, finishing off an American ready-to-eat meal of beef slices and barbecue sauce. "But I prefer the beef stew."

BRITAIN

## Shield force ready to fly

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ARMY units, including 5 Airborne Brigade, Britain's only integrated force, were put on short notice yesterday in case they are needed to fly to northern Iraq to help set up safe havens for the 600,000 Kurdish refugees currently on the Turkish-Iraqi border.

The precautionary move was ordered, even though it was still uncertain last night which units would be actually deployed. The brigade, based at Aldershot, has 5,000 men available for deployment to emergency spots. Lightly armed and backed by their own logistical and engineer support units, they are regarded as ideal for the job of guarding the safe havens. The brigade includes the 2nd and 3rd Parachute Regiments.

More than 600 men of the 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment, were also put on reduced notice yesterday. As the current "speared battalion", the special unit always on short notice, it could fly to Iraq within 24 hours.

Based in their home town of Chester, the troops could be airlifted to the region in RAF Hercules transport aircraft. The Cheshires have just returned from several weeks in Northern Ireland.

The Royal Marines put themselves on short notice, but officials denied they had been ordered to do so by the defence ministry. One official said they were more heavily equipped and would probably take longer to get to Iraq. 3 Commando Brigade, which consists of 40, 42 and 45 Commandos, has its own integral logistics regiment, workshop, medical and transport squadrons. The details of the British military involve-

ment are unlikely to be announced for a day or so. Yesterday the composition of the American, British and French force was discussed at a meeting of senior military officials in Stuttgart, at the US headquarters in Europe.

American, British and French helicopters meanwhile began reconnaissance missions into northern Iraq to pinpoint sites for safe areas. The likely location is in the plains, close to the Iraqi town of Zakho.

AMERICA

## Bush faces 'new Vietnam' charges

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

THE establishment of refugee camps inside Iraq by American, British and French forces has laid President Bush open to domestic criticism that the commitment of troops to Iraqi soil could become the first step toward a prolonged overseas involvement reminiscent of Vietnam.

The plan for the refugee camps, which resembled a British proposal for safe havens rejected by the United States earlier this month, marked a fundamental shift in American policy toward the refugees, even as President Bush insisted that the aid effort was not a build-up to a large-scale occupation of Iraqi territory.

He repeated his assertion that the United States is not going to intervene militarily in

Iraq's affairs and risk being drawn into a Vietnam-style quagmire, basing his judgment on a belief that forces loyal to President Saddam Hussein would not attack the camps of the troops sent to guard them. But his detractors, including right-wing commentators who supported the Gulf war and, to a markedly lesser degree, Democratic politicians in Congress, appeared likely to see the camps as a temporary solution only to the postwar mess inside Iraq.

Stephen Solarz, a New York Democrat on the House foreign affairs committee, was among those who had pressed Mr Bush to stop the Iraqi leader from killing Kurdish rebels. In yesterday's *Wall Street Journal*, in an article written before Mr Bush's

announcement, he said the European initiative for safe havens for the Kurds in northern Iraq was "at best a short-term solution to a long-term problem".

Mr Solarz, who is among Mr Bush's closest Democratic allies on Capitol Hill, said the only way to end the slaughter and starving of the Kurds was a "political solution" involving the replacement of the Baathist government in Iraq with a United Nations-supervised interim government paving the way for democratic elections.

"This is not a call for unilateral American action. The crisis we confront is not just an American responsibility. It is an international one." But the timing of the article was unlikely to please Mr Bush's advisers as they try

to reassure the American public that troops will not become bogged down in Iraq's internal affairs. Mr Solarz said the United States had a "special obligation" to lead an international effort to remove Saddam from power, having incited the Kurds and Shiites to overthrow him.

Officials of the Bush administration said the president's decision to set up refugee camps came in response to growing pressure, at home and from abroad, to help the Kurds, and amid concern that UN relief efforts were slow. Over the past couple of weeks, the White House had found it increasingly difficult to justify its policy of "no intervention" in the internal affairs of Iraq as the American media stepped up coverage of Kurds fleeing into the freezing mountains.

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## Private treatment abroad for Britons

By JILL SHERMAN  
SOCIAL SERVICES  
CORRESPONDENT

A PRIVATE health insurance company is negotiating with 12 hospitals in France, Belgium and The Netherlands to provide treatment for British patients. Today, Western Provident Association (WPA), Britain's third largest private health insurance company, is meeting the French medical assistance company Mondial to help co-ordinate the deal in France.

The 12 hospitals will be added to the list of hospitals covered by WPA in all their policies. People wanting operations abroad will, provided they contact WPA in advance, also get a grant to cover their travel and accommodation costs for their husband or wife in a near by hotel.

The association, which has campaigned against exorbitant costs in the British private sector, has been attracted by the lower costs of hospitals on the Continent which it claims could keep down insurance premiums. A British patient was recently charged £700 for a cataract operation in a Boulogne hospital which would have cost £2,000 in a private hospital in Britain.

Julian Stainton, the company's managing director, said: "The cost of private treatment in the UK is artificially high because there is no market. The pensioner who went to Boulogne is the precursor of patient power."

Mr Stainton also announced that the company intends to launch a new policy to cover minor surgery carried out by GPs. It could cover such procedures as the removal of bumps and ingrowing toenails, biopsies and minor dermatology.

## Judge acquits teacher of murdering his parents

By PAUL WILKINSON

AN UNEMPLOYED teacher accused of murdering his parents for their money was acquitted yesterday after a Home Office forensic scientist said he could not have committed the crime.

Jeffery Dunkley was accused of killing his mother Miriam, aged 59, and his father Fred, aged 63, by battering them with a hammer and dumping their bodies in their garage before setting it ablaze. But yesterday at the Central Criminal Court, Dr Clive Candy, an expert in fire investigation, said Mr Dunkley would not have time to carry out the acts at the house in Wembley, north London, before he visited his mother-in-law 15 minutes drive away.

She timed his arrival as 5.45pm, right in the middle of her favourite soap, *Neighbours*, but the scientist, giving evidence for the prosecution

on the third day of the trial, said it was impossible for the fire to have started before 5.50pm. David Paget, for the prosecution, then said that he could not offer further evidence and the jury was directed by Mr Justice Blofield to return not-guilty verdicts.

Outside court detectives said they had no plans to re-open the case. The prosecution had contended that Mr Dunkley, aged 36, carried out the killings in the 25 minutes between his parents coming home at 5.20 and his arrival at his in-laws. His alleged motive was preventing them leaving their £250,000 estate to his eight-year-old son instead of him.

Initially detectives investigating the deaths on January 23, 1989 were baffled as to motive. Nothing was stolen from their home. Police attention eventually focused on the son, who earlier had told police he had called at his parents' home the evening they died, but got no reply.

In March last year he was charged with murder, but the following month Brent magistrates dismissed the case. Three months later the prosecuting authorities successfully sought a voluntary bill from a High Court judge to send the case direct to jury trial.

Directing the jury to acquit Mr Dunkley, of Watford, Hertfordshire, Mr Justice Blofield said the only evidence was circumstantial and the timing did not support the Crown's case.



Dunkley: could not have committed murders



Tie a yellow ribbon: John Waite, brother of Terry, and Jill Morrell, friend of John McCarthy, campaign for the hostages

## Optimism over McCarthy release

By LOUISE HIDALGO

OPTIMISM marked the start of the British journalist John McCarthy's sixth year as a hostage in Lebanon yesterday. His father, Pat, said he was confident that there would not be another anniversary of his son's captivity. "We will see him home in the next month or two," he said at his home in Essex. A service for his son was held at the local church last night.

The Friends of John McCarthy group and Mr Roger Cooper, released two weeks ago after more than five years in a Tehran prison on spying charges,

welcomed the visit to Tehran this weekend by Lynda Chalker, foreign office minister. They said it was an opportunity to press for the release of the three British hostages — Mr McCarthy, Terry Waite and Jackie Mann — held in the Lebanon. Mrs Chalker is the first British minister to visit Tehran since 1978. Britain and Iran severed diplomatic links in 1980 and they have not been fully restored.

Diplomatic relations were essential, Mr Cooper told a press conference. "The hostage situation can only be solved if one side has someone to talk with," Jill Morrell, who has led the

campaign to secure Mr McCarthy's release, urged the government "to act and act soon". Mrs Chalker meets Iran's foreign minister, Mr Ali Akbar Velayati, on Saturday to discuss aid for Kurdish refugees. The Foreign Office, which yesterday appealed to the Iranian government to use its influence to secure the hostages' release, said Mrs Chalker would discuss the hostages.

A vigil for Mr McCarthy was held last night at St Bride's church, Fleet Street. Thousands of yellow ribbons adorned trees, taxis and buildings as part of Yellow Ribbon Day, launched to raise awareness of the hostages' plight.

## Hail mars play at Lord's

AN UMPIRE at the MCC vs Middlesex cricket match at Lord's donned gloves and scarves yesterday to protect himself from biting winds as the April weather turned again. Spectators accustomed to the odd April shower had to suffer hail as the match started (Alice Thomson writes).

Winds reached 35 knots and the temperature in London dropped to 5deg F. The London Weather Centre forecast strong breezes and rain today, freezing temperatures at night and ground frost over the weekend. A spokesman said that by Friday it would be cold and windy with wintry showers.

## Roads pledge

A Labour government will impose a moratorium on most construction schemes in the government's £17 billion national roads programme, John Prescott, Opposition transport spokesman, said yesterday.

## £775,000 award

Madeline Holbrook, aged five, of Fulborough, West Sussex, who has cerebral palsy after brain damage at birth, was awarded £775,000 yesterday. West Lambeth health authority accepted liability.

## Marquess ban

The Marquess of Blandford, aged 35, was yesterday banned for four months and fined £150 for driving at 95mph on the M40. The ban, imposed by East Oxfordshire magistrates, was his third in a year.

## Mandatory life sentences

### When some murders are more foul than others

THE mandatory "life" sentence for murder, the future of which is to be debated by the House of Lords today, has always been something of a misnomer. While criminals convicted of murdering police officers or of terrorist offences can expect to serve at least 20 years, many lifers are released after spending five or six years in jail. On average, lifers are imprisoned for 12 years.

The reason is that judges, ministers and parole officials have always, in practice, recognised that some murders are

A life sentence can mean freedom after as few as five years. Quentin Cowdry reports

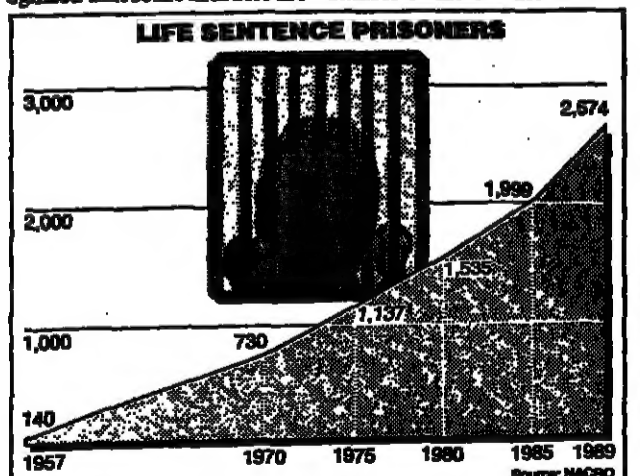
more reprehensible than others. While everyone convicted of murder receives the automatic life sentence, the term served depends on various factors, including the circumstances of the murder and the

risk that is perceived of the criminal reoffending.

The number of lifers in England and Wales has risen sharply since the late Fifties and sentences have become more censorious about such offences. In 1957 there were 730 jailed lifers, or 2 per cent of the prison population, but in 1989 there were 2,674, representing 7 per cent.

Under the present system, trial judges, either openly in court or in a private memorandum, recommend the minimum terms they think should be served. The home secretary, or more often one of his ministers, may then shorten or lengthen the periods. Ministers are reluctant to disclose how they use that discretion, but it is believed they extend the terms more often than they reduce them.

After the term is finished, the prisoner may be given parole or released on "life licence", the final decision for which rests with the home secretary. Lifers remain on licence until they die and can be recalled to jail by the Home Office at any time. In practice, this seldom happens as most do not reoffend.



### Let us switch to hard track and keep awesome penalty

THERE are few subjects more emotive than murder and the penalty for murder, yet there are few places more given to calm deliberation than the Upper House of Parliament. The two meet today when the House of Lords debates an amendment to the criminal justice bill on the sentence for murder.

The law on homicide, including the all-important distinction between murder and manslaughter, has long been recognised as unsatisfactory. Stronger criticism still attaches to the way sentences of life imprisonment, mandatory for murder and discretionary for manslaughter and other grave crimes, are administered by the Home Office without any element of judicial control.

In 1987, on the third reading of the previous criminal justice bill, I suggested a select committee so that the review could be carried out on an all-party basis. The committee sat for the best part of a year, taking evidence from 81 witnesses, varying from the Lord Chief Justice to the families of murder victims, and recommended the retention of life imprisonment for

Lord Windlesham, a leading advocate of abolition of the mandatory life sentence, argues his case

the most serious cases, or where a degree of uncertainty existed about the risk of releasing a prisoner at the end of a determinate sentence.

In opposing the amendment that no court shall be required to sentence a person convicted of murder to imprisonment for life, ministers have fallen back on such well-worn generalisation as murder is the most heinous of all crimes, and that when the death penalty was suspended in 1965, and abolished in 1969, a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment was substituted to mark the unique wickedness of the crime.

It is a misleading caricature to claim that all murders are uniquely heinous. They cover a vast range of culpability that defies categorisation. The result of the present arrangements is that the average

period of time served by life sentence prisoners is greatly reduced by the preponderance of domestic cases. After the introduction of discretionary life sentences, there can be no doubt that the average would increase substantially. No longer would currency be given to the public house "taint that life 'only' means nine or ten years in prison. The life sentence, with its concomitant liability to recall to custody when the risk of future serious offending justifies it, would be restored to what it should be: the more severe and awesome penalty permitted by law.

It is easier of course to make the case in a non-elected chamber, than in the more turbulent politics of the Commons or the party conferences. But enduring and worthwhile reforms are not won without tenacity and persuasion. There are now sufficient grounds for the government to switch the proposal to change the sentence for murder from the soft to the hard track.

Lord Windlesham is principal of Brasenose College, Oxford. He was chairman of the Parole Board 1982-8

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## Marriage rate falls but number of divorces stabilises

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

FEWER single people are getting married and those who have tried it once are increasingly reluctant to repeat the experience, according to the latest official statistics. As four in ten marriages, 37 per cent, now end in divorce, couples are instead opting to live with each other without going through the marriage ceremony.

The Office of Population Censuses and Surveys reports that marriage rates fell from 56 to 45 per thousand unmarried men and from 45 to 38 per thousand unmarried women between 1981 and 1989. Although the number of marriages has changed little since 1981 the number of men and women eligible to marry has increased considerably.

The remarriage rate for divorced men and women has fallen even more dramatically during the same period, from 130 to 77 per thousand divorced men and from 91 to 60 per thousand divorced women. In spite of that trend, one in six marriages is be-

tween couples where one partner has been divorced and one in 12 is between two divorcees. In 1989 there were 347,000 marriages in England and Wales, 2,000 fewer than the previous year. Divorce rates have stayed fairly constant with 151,000 divorces in 1989, 1 per cent fewer than in 1988, but up on 1987.

The report also shows that couples are waiting until they are older before committing themselves to marriage. The median age of grooms is now at 27.7 years, while for brides it is 25.6 years. Couples are most at risk of a marital break-

	Marriages	Divorces
1979	368,853	138,706
1980	370,022	148,501
1981	351,973	145,713
1982	342,195	146,998
1983	344,334	147,479
1984	349,186	144,501
1985	346,389	160,300
1986	347,954	153,903
1987	351,761	151,007
1988	346,492	152,633
1989	346,687	150,872

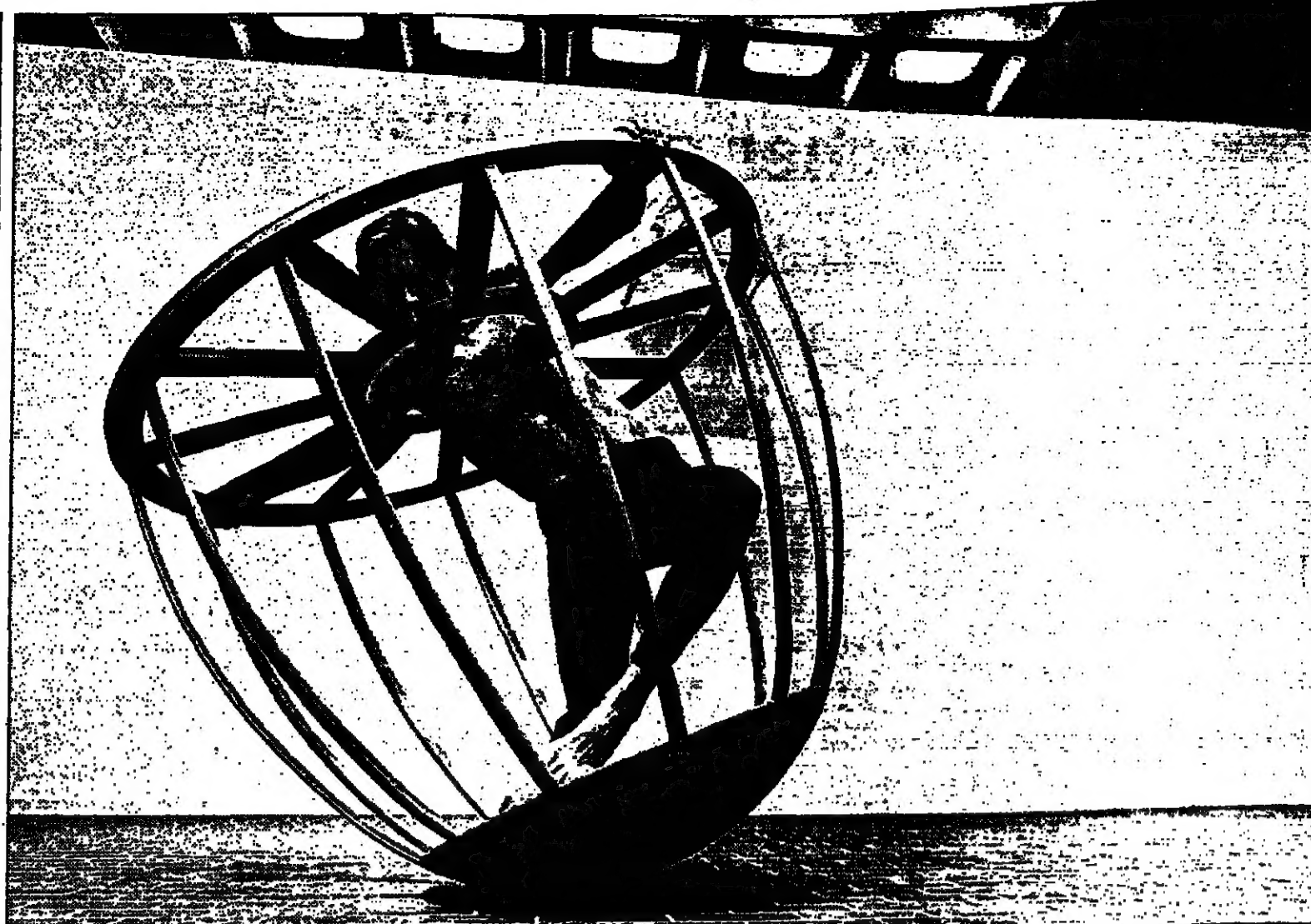
up during their mid to late 20s. Thirty-one in every thousand husbands in this age group divorced, against 29 in every thousand wives.

The report shows that three-quarters of couples who divorced in 1989 had married as a bachelor and spinster. In a further 16 per cent, one partner was divorcing again and in 8 per cent both partners were divorcing again.

The report predicts that one in four children would experience divorce in their family before reaching 16. However, the actual numbers involved fell by 1 per cent between 1988 and 1989 to 148,000 children under 16.

Fifty-four per cent of divorces granted to wives were awarded on husbands' unreasonable behaviour and about one-quarter on husbands' adultery. In one in six cases (17 per cent) the divorce was awarded after two years' separation.

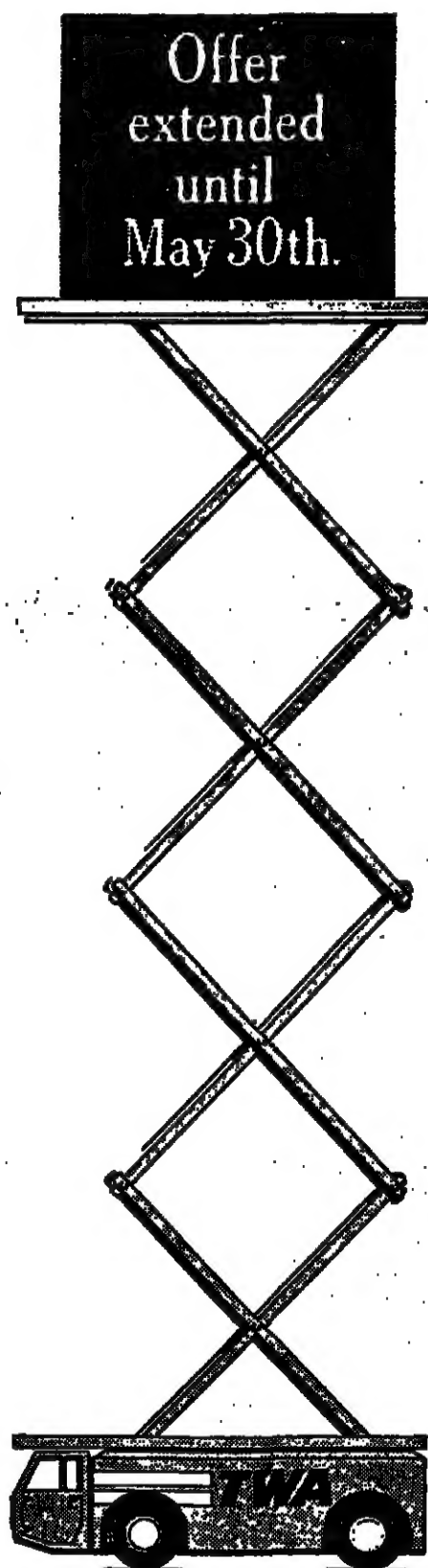
Marriage and Divorce Statistics 1989 (Stationery Office, £10.30)



Part of the wood work: Simon Nicholas getting to grips for an energetic bout of rocking and rolling in a wooden frame at the Barbican art gallery in London yesterday. The work by Jana Serbak, entitled "Skyphus", is part of an exhibition of Canadian contemporary art.

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### Museums policy

## Funding cuts take toll on local success

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

MUSEUMS financed by local authorities are the accidental victims of government policies, according to a report by the Museums and Galleries Commission.

The report says that the community charge and the

education reform act, which has cut school visits to museums and damaged museum education services, have taken their toll on otherwise successful local museums. John Last, the commission member and chairman of the working party, said: "Central government needs to be more aware of the far-reaching effect of its policy changes, and local authorities should have properly considered policies towards the museums in their care. There should be more realistic levels of funding to enable museums to better fund for themselves."

### Top job for Greene's nephew

THE prime minister has announced that Graham Greene, nephew of the late novelist and son of Sir Hugh Greene, is to be the chairman of the Museums and Galleries Commission (Simon Tait writes). Mr Greene, a former publisher, is now a literary agent. The choice came as a surprise to the museum world and to the man who used to have to be known as Graham C. Greene to distinguish him from his uncle. "I received a letter from Downing Street about two weeks ago. Why I don't know, but I do know that I wasn't 150th on a list," he said. He succeeds Lord Morris, who retired from the unpaid job last December.

Mr Greene is a trustee of the British Museum. He has been chairman of, in turn, Chetto, the Bodley Head and Jonathan Cape up to last year when he retired after the takeover by Random Books. He was made a CBE in 1986, and the French government made him a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres in 1985.

The Museums and Galleries Commission has a staff of 40 and a budget of £11.5 million. Mr Greene said: "The most urgent problem has got to be funding, but there are a lot of areas for exploration. I think it is extraordinary that there is not television coverage of museums."

"Local authority-funded museums have a fight on their hands. Many of them crouch like gothic beasts in our town centres intimidating all who dare to enter. They are often fighting the nature of their architecture, poor funding, lack of local awareness and cumbersome management structure, and yet the services they offer their communities, particularly in terms of education, are often superb."

The report calls for doubled funding for area museums, councils to help local museums, a central government capital buildings scheme for local museums in line with that for national institutions, marketing officers for museums, funding for specialist education staff, and training in fiscal and accounting skills for curators and managers.

Meanwhile a report from the Policy Studies Institute shows that attendances for local authority and independent museums increased by a third between 1979 and 1989 while local authority revenue expenditure fell by 3 per cent in 1988-9. "While the museums are growing more popular their funding is getting less and less," the report said.

Local Authorities and Museums. (Stationery Office, £11.50) Cultural Trends. (Policy Studies Institute, £9.95)

## City fights to keep open the doors

BRISTOL has a wealth of museums. In its centre is the Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery, almost 170 years old and occupying a listed Edwardian building (Our Arts Correspondent writes).

There are eight branches, ranging from the Industrial Museum to St Nicholas's, a former parish church whose collections trace the medieval development of the city.

Attendances have been steadily rising to a respectable 700,000 last year when the city museum had two very successful exhibitions, on Georges Braque and Great Sea Dragons, about locally discovered fossils. Admission to all the branches is free but the main museum's shop is a source of revenue, taking £156,000 last year.

All the museums are under some degree of threat with charge capping leading to a jobs freeze. The council has to

cut £5 million from its budget and its museums are a discretionary area of funding.

Fred Pidgeon, vice-chairman of the leisure services committee, said: "The freeze affects the security wardens and without them the museums can't open. St Nicholas's isn't open some days - and sometimes for weeks - because we can't find the staff, and there may have to be full-time closure."

Last year the city put £2.3 million into its museums, compared with £2 million the year before. Then, when the authority was charge-capped, £30,000 had to be lopped off and this year no allocation has so far been made while an appeal against a second year's capping is pending.

Mr Pidgeon said that keeping open the main museum was the priority "and we'll charge admission over my dead body".



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# Government taking over measure for Cardiff Bay barrage

By JOHN WINDER AND NICHOLAS WATT

THE government is to take over legislation for the £77 million Cardiff Bay barrage project after a locally sponsored bill was disrupted by an all-night siring in the Commons.

Delay all through Tuesday night was caused by long speeches by Labour opponents of the Cardiff Bay Barrage bill, which they opposed because of what they see as its detrimental effect on the environment.

It was not until after 13 hours of debate that John MacGregor, leader of the Commons, conceded to the bill's opponents and announced that the government would bring in a bill. He said that the private bill, sponsored by Cardiff Bay Development Corporation and Labour-controlled South Glamorgan county council, would have meant that the scheme could have been completed more quickly.

Mr MacGregor said that David Hunt, secretary for Wales, would consult on the contents of the government's legislation as soon as possible. Ministers hope to launch it this session.

Mr Hunt earlier accused the

project's Labour critics of seeking to "sabotage a vital billion-pound investment aimed at regenerating the economy of Cardiff and South Wales".

He said later that Cardiff had a precious asset in its docklands and bay. The project was recognised as a unique opportunity to create a maritime city equal to any in the world.

The barrage has been hailed as the great chance to regenerate the city and to entice developers away from Bristol which has always attracted the cream of businesses in the South-West.

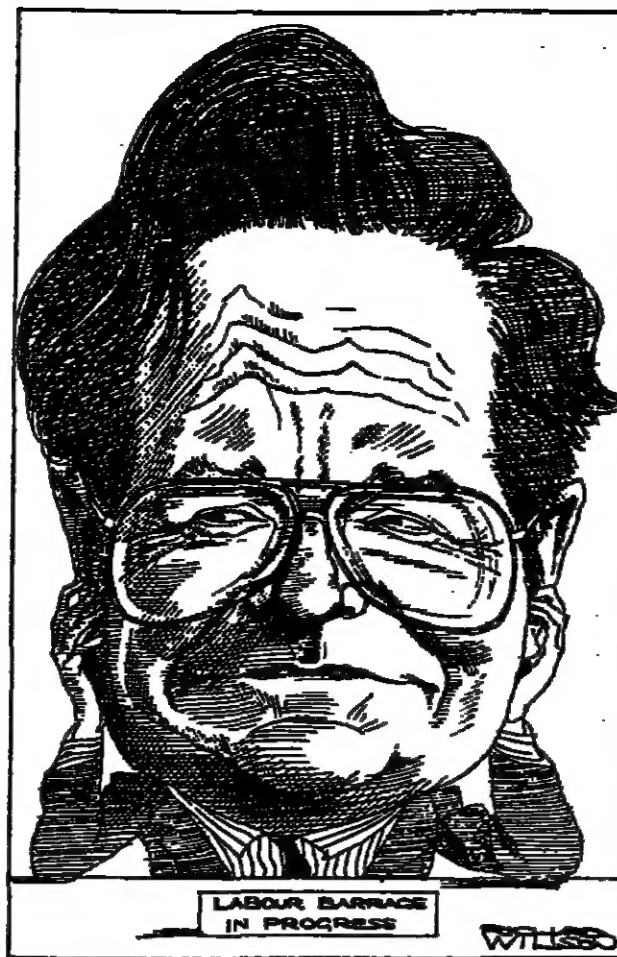
However, since the launch of the scheme in 1987 it has run into concerted opposition from anxious local residents and conservationists, and the regional Labour party has divided over the issue. Neil Kinnock, who represents a south Wales seat, has been a strong supporter while Rhodri Morgan, Labour MP for Cardiff West and one of the party's front bench energy spokesmen, has campaigned tirelessly against the barrage.

The scheme is based on a simple idea. The ugly mudflats of the rundown bay

would be covered by an attractive lake by building a barrage across the bay which is at the mouth of the Rivers Taff and Ely. That would level up the area and provide impetus for the private sector to build houses and offices in a massive redevelopment.

However, environmentalists argue that, far from creating an attractive lake where people could windsurf and row boats, it would create a stagnant pool that would be so hazardous people would have to avoid the water. Mr Morgan said that the colour of the lake would turn from pea green to brown and would be blue only where there was blue algae. He added that it would also clog up the sewage from the Taff which was a polluted river anyway.

The barrage could also raise groundwater levels in southern Cardiff by one to two metres. The bay's developer, the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation, has outlined an area in the city where houses could be affected and it has drawn up a compensation scheme which allows for free surveys of houses within the zone and liability for up to 20 years to pay for water proofing



MacGregor: conceded after 13 hours of debate

cellars and treating damp if a house has been affected.

However, the Commons committee considering the barrage bill concluded, after hearing evidence in Cardiff last year, that the development corporation would have to carry out more re-

search into the dangers of rising groundwater. It also said that anyone in Cardiff should be entitled to compensation if they could prove that their house had been damaged.

Leading article, page 19

## Ditherer label must go

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

At this week's launch of Labour's latest chunk of manifesto by its insouciant jauntiness about Neil Kinnock, an obvious readiness to take on all comers. So much so that he even revised the party's policy on unilateralism in a throwaway line. He is confident with reason.

Mr Kinnock has given back to his party the will to win and the belief that it can do so. He has proved the best party organiser ever to occupy his position, and he has demonstrated in the past three months new expertise in the art of opposition.

He held back patiently in the Gulf war. He played the patriotic card without sounding like Little Sir Echo. He did not alienate public sympathy by attacking John Major while the new prime minister enjoyed his honeymoon or panic while the Tory lead in the opinion polls rose. But since then Mr Kinnock and the Labour front bench, well orchestrated by the campaign coordinator, Jack Cunningham, have selected and exploited well the single most effective line of attack on the prime minister.

How were they to undermine Mr Major's record high standing in the opinion polls? What was certain was that anyone succeeding Margaret Thatcher with the

intention of governing by anything resembling a communications strategy should have allowed the prime minister to submit himself to a Walden becoming before there was something positive to say about the poll tax alternative. No cabinet with confidence in what it is doing should spend as much time as some ministers do in complaining to writers and editors about the media's coverage of their efforts.

Hands up the cabinet minister who has not launched a scornful attack in a speech somewhere, sometime on Neil Kinnock's fitness for office. That is politics.

Colleagues concede that Mr Major's biggest weakness is his sensitivity to criticism, and even his MPs find it extraordinary that he should seek to keep in obscurity his lack of academic qualifications. If you have won your way through to Downing Street on merit, who cares whether it was with a single GCE in needlework?

The prime minister, however, is no more a ditherer than any other senior politician with the sense to peer over the top before jumping a hedge. But Tory responses to the charge that he is, have enabled Labour to make some mud stick. His international success on the Kurdish enclaves may give Mr Major the confidence to begin ignoring the critics rather than answering every wicker of a pun.

Perhaps the best way for him to lose the ditherer tag will be to announce before the local elections that there will be no June election. The bulk of his cabinet does not believe there should, or will, be one. But it will look dithering making an announcement only after a poor Tory showing on May 2. Why not make it decisively plain now that it will be October at the earliest?

What is so remarkable, however, is the way in which a twitchy Tory party is helping Labour's campaign with bad tactics, bad planning and the wrong signals.

Never mind that Labour itself had taken months, if not years, to produce a poll tax alternative. The joy of accusing the government of dithering is that the label can be applied to any pause for consultation.

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## Cash, not patients, 'at centre of NHS'

By JOHN WINDER AND PETER MULLIGAN

THE government was accused last night of changing the objective of the health service from meeting patient needs to balancing the books.

Robin Cook, Labour spokesman on health, said at the start of an Opposition debate on the health service and community care that the whole point of markets was not to satisfy need but to achieve financial equilibrium. Some hospitals were seeking to do that by lowering the level of their activity.

He asked whether William Waldegrave, the health secretary, would agree to measure the success of those hospitals that had opted out by the simple test of whether they did more or less work for National Health Service patients. The theory had been that they would get better value for money because health authorities would shop for contracts while hospitals would try to get their business. Competition would drive down costs. "Life is more complicated. Hospitals have discovered that the quickest way to do that is to do less work for more money."

He said that Mr Waldegrave had just issued the latest figures for waiting lists of patients, at last September. They had reached a peak even before the effect of last winter, when hospital after hospital had been forced to close its doors to patients. "After years in which they have told us that they would improve, not the numbers waiting, but the numbers being treated, today's figures show a 3 per cent reduction in activity in patient levels."

Mr Cook predicted that they were about to see an improvement in waiting lists, as they went the same way as unemployment statistics, not because more people would come off waiting lists, but because fewer people would get on them.

Ministers had "sold" the new system as a basis for widening patient choice, but would they guarantee that patients waiting for procedures on March 31 would get that procedure carried out and

at the hospitals of their choice?

The old promise that money would follow the patient in the new scheme had now changed and that was no longer the buzz phrase. Now they were told that the new scheme made for tighter financial control.

There had never been a September under this government in which waiting lists had failed to be higher than in any September under Labour. Mr Cook pledged to put the National Health Service the top of the agenda at the general election.

However, Mr Waldegrave defended the government's reforms. He said the GP contracts had completed their first year and he hoped they could be further improved. Formidable improvements were already being seen in the development of a "patient-centred NHS".

Mr Waldegrave said that "significant, sustained reductions" were being made in the waiting lists. He added that the number of patients waiting more than a year for in-patient and day case treatment fell by 5,100 in the six months to last September. That was on top of a 7 per cent reduction in the year to March 1990. The latest provisional figures indicated that the progress had gained momentum with a 12 per cent reduction expected in the five months to February this year.

Waldegrave: Doctor contracts will be improved



Waldegrave: Doctor contracts will be improved

## Water quality threat

THE government was accused yesterday of allowing the newly privatised water companies to breach standards for drinking water.

Ann Taylor, shadow minister for environmental protection, said that the companies had been given blanket relaxations of drinking water standards, that could pose a significant risk to health. It was known, she said, that the companies, had difficulties meeting standards, but the

government had secretly given them a period of grace of five or ten years before improvements had to be carried out.

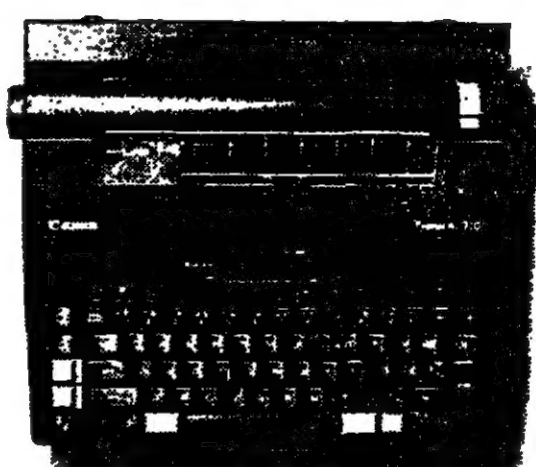
She is tabling a series of Commons questions and seeking confirmation that undertakings by the water companies to make improvements had been fulfilled.

The Water Services Association, which represents the ten water companies, said that all the drinking water they supplied was fit to drink.

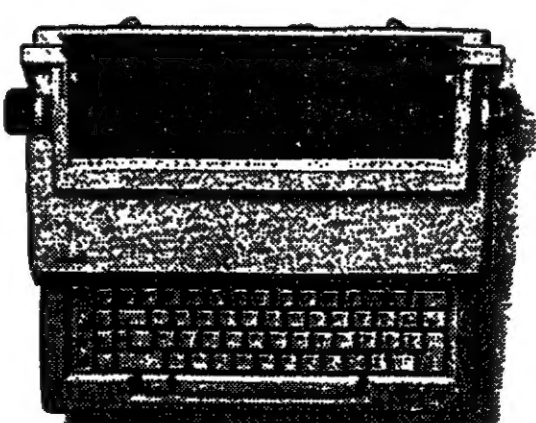
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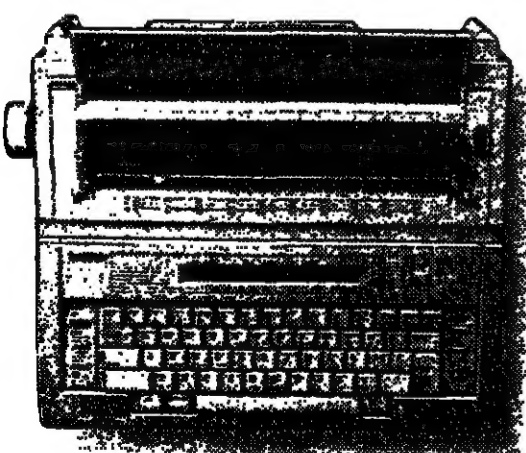
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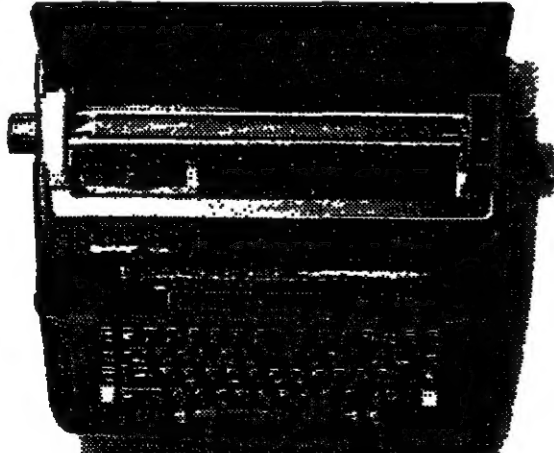
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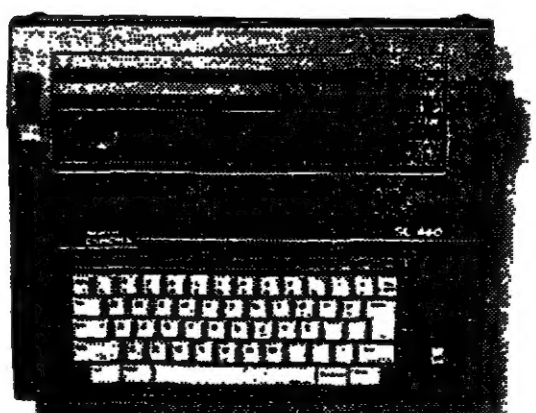
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There's more to discover at WHSMITH.



## Labour bill puts local tax pressure on ministers

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour party tried yesterday to maintain the pressure on the government over local taxation by publishing a bill that would allow a new property tax to be introduced from next April.

With his latest local elections ruse Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, invited the government to push the bill through quickly to ensure that this would be the last year of the community charge.

With the cabinet giving final approval today to a new property-based tax, the Opposi-

tion parties were determined to press their charges of indecision against the government to the last.

Archy Kirkwood, the Liberal Democrats' campaign manager, called a news conference at Westminster and pronounced morale in the Conservative campaign to be at a record low. "Their disillusionment is widespread and their candidates have been deserted on the doorstep by their own prime minister. If Tory literature is confused about their alternative to the poll tax, how can they expect the electorate to understand?"

The Liberal Democrats are fielding more than 6,000 candidates in the May 2 poll. Mr Kirkwood said. He said that their campaign was on course to achieve the targets they had set themselves. He accepts that the party may suffer net losses overall because it is starting from a high point, having made 477 gains in the equivalent elections in 1987, but he expects it to make further inroads into those councils where it already wields an influence.

Mr Kirkwood doubted whether the success of John Major's initiative on the Kurds would help the Tory campaign. Clearly talking up his opponents' chances, he predicted that Labour would make big gains, perhaps 500 to 600 seats, and said that they would be in severe trouble if they did not.

"There is evidence that the Labour party is holding up. They would have to hold up to have any prospect of winning the next election," Mr Kirkwood added. "On every doorstep our candidates are getting the same message. People do not like the way the Tories and Labour have turned this into a dry run for the general election."

Meanwhile, Mr Gould said that his poll tax abolition bill was what the government should be publishing rather than its consultation document on local government finance. "This rigorously drafted measure would ensure that this is the last year of the poll tax. It would make next year the first year of a new property tax - fair rates - the first year of all the savings that we identified last week. For whatever announcement the government makes tomorrow it is now clear that the poll tax will exist this year, next year and the year after that. That means three years of continuing chaos."

Labour's bill abolishes the poll tax in its first part, replaces it with the party's fair rates scheme in the second and replaces the standard spending assessments system in the third.

Labour also moved to trump the government's expected discounts for people living alone by making plain that its fair rates plan provides for rebates of up to 100 per cent for pensioners living alone.

The shadow local government minister, David Blunkett, said: "We'll be the secretary of state accept our offer of enacting this legislation on an emergency basis."

## Stricter river rules demanded

Tougher safety rules for river boats were called for yesterday by John Bowers, Tory MP for Battersea, to coincide with the summer rush of tourists viewing London from the Thames.

Recalling the sinking of the Marchioness with the loss of 51 lives, he called for minimum standards of visibility from the bridge of a boat and the fitting of devices to limit noise from discotheques.

His proposals were included in his River Safety bill, which, with cross-party support, was given a formal first reading.

## Crime appeal to businesses



With crime costing businesses up to £10 billion a year, Kenneth Baker, home secretary (above), urged companies to make crime prevention a permanent issue.

Speaking to retailers in London during crime prevention week, he said that, despite losses from crime, research showed that few companies had crime prevention policies.

**Parliament today**  
Commons (2.30): Questions: Treasury, prime minister. Debate on agriculture.  
Lords (3): Criminal justice bill, committee, third day.

## Anti-Nazi measure faces new attack

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LEGAL peers plan to mount a summer campaign to mutilate the government's bill to enable Nazi war crimes trials to be held in Britain.

Although an important group of peers intends to vote against the war crimes bill at second reading on April 30, most of the bill's opponents have switched their tactics to try to block the legislation by tabling pages of amendments for debate during May and June.

In the most stark division between the two Houses, the Lords killed off the government's original bill last summer in a free vote by 207 votes to 74. The government reintroduced the measure this session, winning Commons approval last month by 254 votes to 88.

Ministers have made clear that, if the Lords continue to block the measure, they will use the Parliament acts to override the upper House and get it on the statute book. However, they admit that no more than a handful of former Nazis who sought refuge in Britain after the Second World War are expected to be charged. The veteran Labour peer

Lord Houghton of Sowerby has tabled a motion for second reading which, if passed, would effectively stop the bill's passage in the Lords by delaying second reading for six months.

However, support is growing for Lord Campbell of Alloway's motion attempting to widen the scope of the legislation to cover Japanese and Iraqi war criminals who fled to Britain. The Conservative QC, who was a prisoner in Colditz Castle, led the revolt against the original bill with support from other legal heavyweights, including the former Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, and Lord Shawcross, the former Attorney-general who took part in war crimes trials at Nuremberg.

Lord Waddington, leader of the Lords, will present the government's case for the bill at second reading by emphasising the evidence against former Nazis uncovered by the Hetherington/Chalmers enquiry. Although peers will again have a free vote, ministers have been asked to turn out to support it this time, more than half of them abstained last year.

## Countdown to May 2 elections: a family divided

### Pit strike rift resurfaces for father and son

By CRAIG SETON

MEMORIES of the 12-month pit strike six years ago still run deep in Nottinghamshire, where most miners defied pickets of the National Union of Mineworkers to continue working and where communities and families were divided by the bitter dispute.

As the local election campaign gets under way, some divisions are resurfacing, not least in the mining town of Mansfield. There Brian Marshall and his son Les, miners on opposite sides during the strike, are contesting the same ward for a seat on the district council, one as a Conservative and the other for Labour.

Both were Labour councillors for the Forest Town ward until, after the strike, Mr Marshall senior was deselected after 14 years on the council. He joined the Conservatives and is one of three Tories in the ward in a straight fight against Labour opponents, including his son, a councillor for eight



Relative rivals: Les Marshall, left, a Labour councillor, is being challenged by his father Brian, a Tory candidate

years. During the 1984-85 pit dispute Mr Marshall senior was NUM branch secretary at Clifton colliery, near Mansfield, where he and his son worked underground. He worked during the dispute while Les was an NUM picket trying to persuade his father and others to strike.

The older man left the NUM in disgust to join the moderate Union of Democratic Mineworkers (UDM), formed by working miners concerned about the NUM's militant picketing. The UDM represents most of the 14,000 miners in the coalfield, but says it remains unrecognised by Labour because of the party's traditional links with the older union.

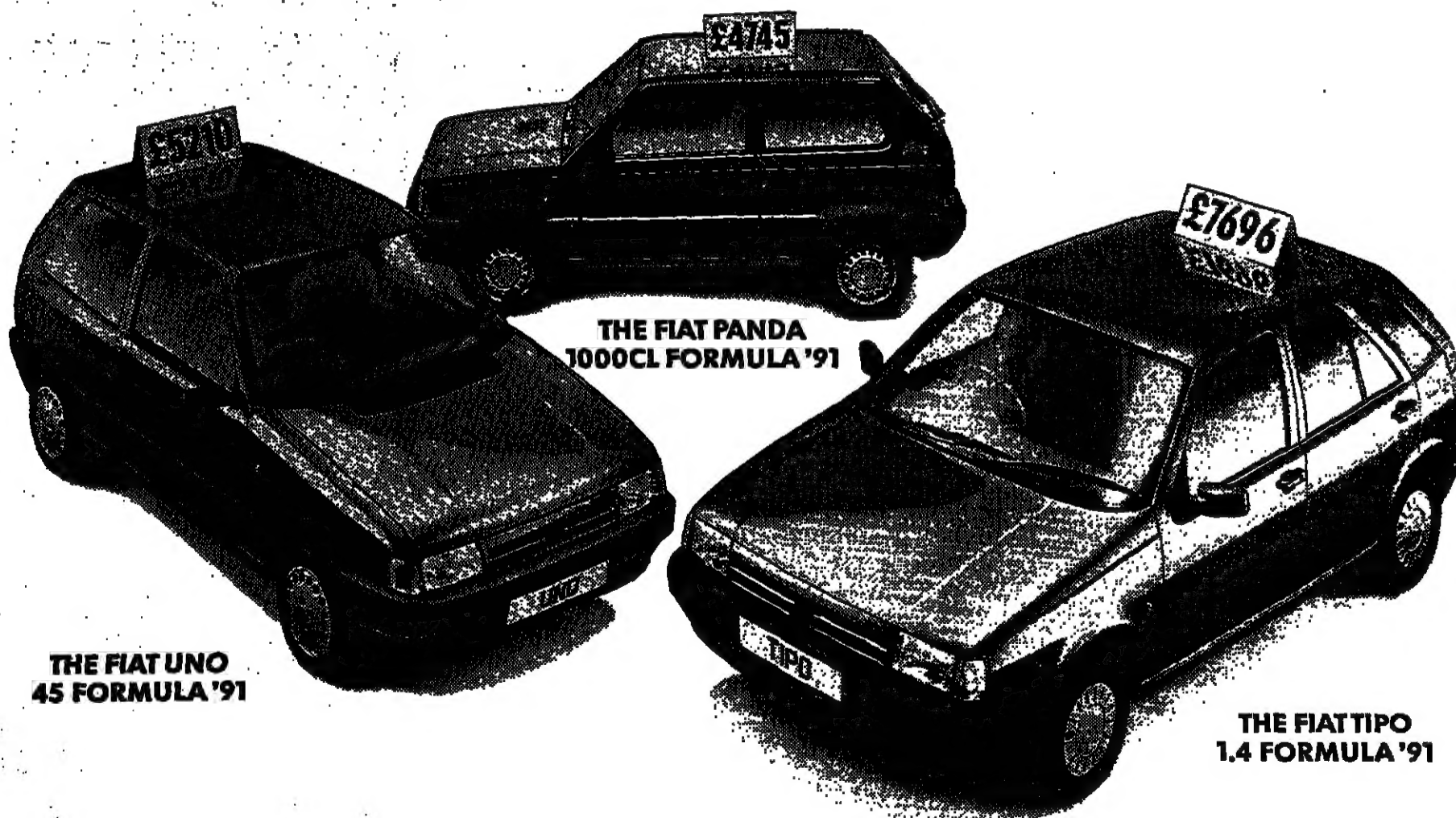
When the pit strike ended, Mr Marshall senior became the new union's branch president at the colliery and two years later was deselected as a Labour councillor. He said the local party was dominated by former

NUM strikers and that they got rid of him because he had worked during the strike and because of his role in the UDM. After deselection, Mr Marshall, aged 53, helped to form a new political group in Nottinghamshire called the Moderate Labour Party and stood as its candidate in his old ward, but was beaten by Labour.

The party foundered through lack of support. He said that he had joined the Tories this year to oppose the leftwards drift of the controlling Labour group on Mansfield district council. "My son and I used to work in the same ward raising funds for the Labour party and helping the community," he said. Mr

Marshall, now a contract miner, claimed that other Labour candidates had been deselected for their UDM involvement. Les Marshall, aged 30, is now a pit deputy at Clifton colliery, where most miners belong to the UDM. He and his father would not talk to each other for two years after the strike, but he said that they now got on as long as they did not discuss politics. He said his father had been deselected because the local Labour party wanted a change. He did not expect his father to win a seat on the district council, on which the Labour group has a majority of more than 20 over the Tories.

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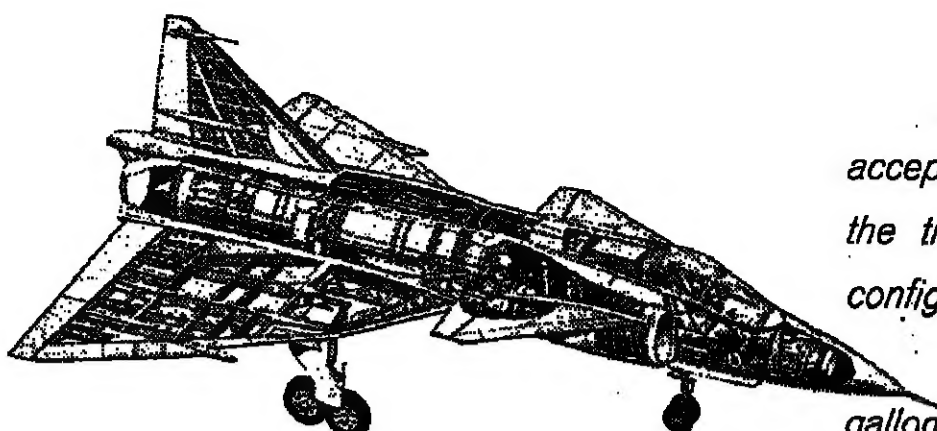
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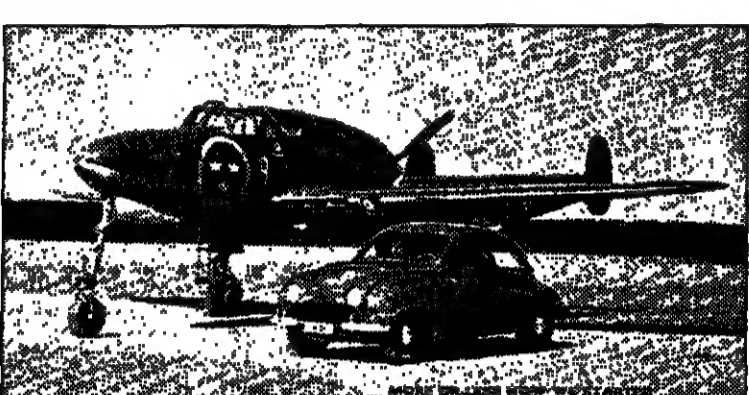
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...never did we imagine that it could make a Sierra Cosworth look like a lame duck.

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All this from less than the normally accepted number of cylinders. Four rather than the traditionally heavier, thirstier, six cylinder configuration.

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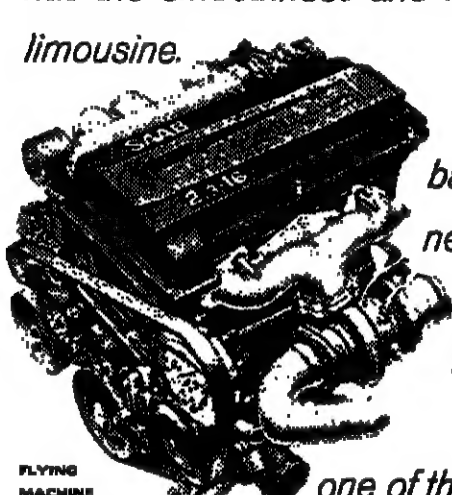
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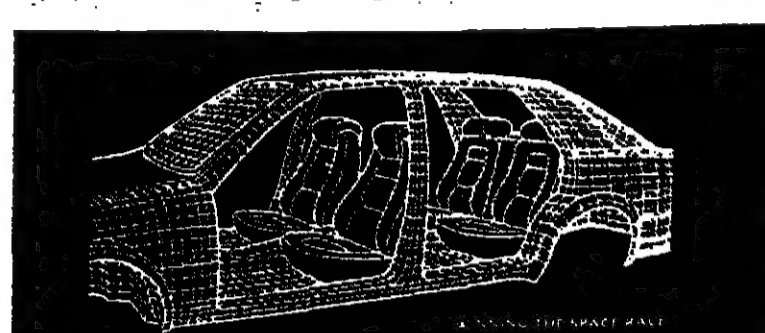
Crisp, sportslike handling, unrivalled acceleration and unimpeachable roadholding make the CD one of the most responsive cars of its kind.

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(Lateral thinking and Saab's advanced Cray aeronautical computer placed the engine laterally across the chassis, allowing the forward bulkhead to be pushed forward, increasing both legroom, headroom and interior space.)

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# Gamekeepers and farmers 'killing rare birds of prey'

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of rare birds of prey are being illegally poisoned, shot and trapped, according to a report published today. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), a co-author of the report, says many more deaths are unrecorded.

Many of the birds are in the "red data" list of 117 species that breed in Britain and are at risk. Some, such as golden eagles and peregrine falcons, are important because Britain is home to a significant percentage of the European population.

Illegal killing of birds of prey by gamekeepers and farmers is commonest where pheasant and sheep are reared and on upland grouse moors. The death toll is highest during the spring gamebird breeding and lambing season. Many birds are shot or trapped, while others are poisoned by pesticide-laced bait laid for foxes and crows.

The RSPB, which compiled the report with the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC), says that between 1979 and 1989, 814 birds of prey and owls were recorded as killed, including 40 golden eagles, 65 peregrine falcons, 57 hen harriers, 39 goshawks, 24 red kites and 367 buzzards. Other animals killed included 435 dogs, 276 cats and 32 badgers.

Richard Porter, the RSPB's head of species management, said: "The figures paint an appalling picture of indiscriminate destruction.

Deliberate persecution has had a crippling effect on some of our rarest birds of prey." The number of reported bird deaths during 1979-89 was three times higher than in the previous decade, but the RSPB thinks the real death toll is much higher.

Red kites, once widespread, had almost disappeared by the start of this century. There are now some 60 breeding pairs confined to central Wales. Poisoning is thought to have prevented them spreading further. In 1989 and 1990 the RSPB and the NCC released 44 Continental red kites in Scotland and southern England. Three of the 44 have already been found poisoned.

Indigenous white-tailed eagles were exterminated by 1916, chiefly because of the increase in sheep farming in Scotland. Between 1975 and 1984, the RSPB introduced 82 young birds from Norway. By 1990 there were estimated to be 11 breeding pairs, about eight per cent of the European Community total. Three illegal deaths were recorded in the past decade.

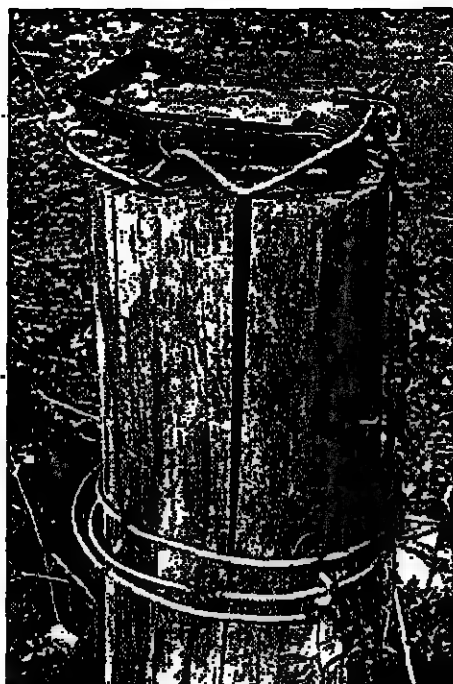
The hen harrier, of which there are only 630 breeding pairs in Britain, is the most ruthlessly persecuted bird of prey, the report says. Over the past decade, 57 were killed and 98 out of the 145 bird of prey nests reported destroyed belonged to the species. Seventy-one owls of all species were killed illegally during the past decade. A high percent-

age, mainly barn owls and tawny owls, were shot or caught in spring-traps mounted on fence posts on which the birds like to perch.

The agriculture ministry last month launched a campaign to reduce illegal killing of birds of prey. Amendments to the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981, which are now going through Parliament with all-party support, would strengthen the legal accountability of landowners for the actions of gamekeepers, making them liable to criminal prosecution and a fine of up to £2,000 for every animal killed.

The RSPB says it would like to see stricter controls on use of pesticides and poisons. It calls on the government to promote training courses for gamekeepers on how to protect gamebirds and lambs against predators.

*Death by Design: The Persecution of Birds of Prey and Owls in the UK 1979-89* (RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL; £5)



Death perch: pole traps, left, which catch birds by the legs, have been illegal since 1904. The tawny owl, right, was severely injured after being trapped as it tried to hunt



BIRDS OF PREY KILLED BY POISONING, SHOOTING OR TRAPPING IN THE UK 1979-89			
SPECIES		BREEDING PAIRS (in 1980 unless stated)	NUMBER KILLED
Goshawk	Kestrel	30,000-60,000	68
	Sparrowhawk	30,000	50
Hen harrier	Buzzard	12,000-15,000	367
	Perngrine	900 (1985)	65
Osprey	Merlin	550-650 (1983-84)	4
	Hobby	500	57
Peregrine	Golden eagle	424 (1982)	9
	Goshawk	200	40
Partridge	Red kite	60	39
	Merlin harrier	75 (breeding females)	24
Pheasant	Osprey	80	7
	White-tailed eagle	4-11	4

## North Sea deal over dismissal of strikers

By KERRY GILL

NORTH Sea oil and gas companies are expecting a summer of industrial peace after agreement was reached yesterday between unions and the Offshore Contractors' Council over the dismissal last year of workers who took part in unofficial strikes.

A panel of council representatives and union officials is to examine outstanding grievances of men dismissed and who want to return to work offshore. Those who were dismissed will have 14 days to lodge grievances after the first meeting of the panel.

The agreement excludes workers who have cases outstanding at industrial tribunals, have received redundancy payments or who have been re-engaged on contracts.

Last year's series of unofficial 24-hour strikes involved thousands of men employed by contractors on offshore work. The dispute was an attempt to improve working conditions and safety. Many workers were dismissed after holding sit-ins on platforms but a truce was called to let the official unions hold talks with the employers.

## Professors defend training of teachers

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE heads of university teacher training departments yesterday launched a counter-attack on critics who accuse them of frustrating the government's attempts to raise standards in schools.

At a press conference in London to announce increased demand for training places, the Universities Council for the Education of Teachers issued a statement saying that many of critics were ill-informed and politically motivated.

The professors emphasised that the content of their courses, including the balance between theory and practice, had to be approved by the education secretary. "The criticisms that too much time is spent on psychology and on sociology are patently false."

Professor Tony Becher, of Sussex university, said: "The Tory party is dominated by raving right-wing think tanks." Some publications that it had issued had contained falsehoods couched in terms calculated to attract publicity, he said.

## Inner cities face growth in drug trade warfare

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S inner cities face a disturbing growth of gangland warfare between drug traffickers fighting to control street dealing, a national police drugs conference was told yesterday.

Brian Johnson, chief constable of Lancashire and vice-president of the Association of Chief Police Officers, told 140



Robinson: "Report gives unrepresentative picture"

## 'Feminist' survey rejected

A LEADING women's organisation in the Roman Catholic church has accused a fellow body of spreading feminist propaganda in a report published this week (Ruth Gledhill writes).

The Association of Catholic Women is to formally dissociate itself from the report, which described widespread frustration and discrimination against women in the Catholic church.

Josephine Robinson, the association's chairman, said that the report by the National Board of Catholic Women was unrepresentative.

*Do Not Be Afraid* (Redemptorist Publications, Alphonsus House, Wolf Lane, Chawton, Alton, Hants GU34 3HQ; £2.50)

Mr Johnson said that drug abuse was being funded by an increasing number of burglaries and robberies and a significant percentage of serious crime. There was concern at the number of traffickers with criminal backgrounds emerging in the drug world.

Robert Simmonds, former commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and a UN expert on drug problems, said that the war against drug abuse could not be won by enforcement alone. The debate about how to deal with demand had barely begun. Mr Simmonds, who spent three years investigating the Balkan trail, linking heroin production in south-west Asia to Europe, said that some eastern bloc countries which had been used as transit points were afraid of becoming markets themselves. That was particularly true of countries moving towards the creation of convertible currencies.

In a series of papers on the use of rewards and funding for drug investigations, David Polkinghorne, speaking on behalf of the Community Action Trust, said that commercial companies were providing £250,000 a year for rewards and that the police should make more use of the funds. Christine Heald, who administers a new government drug fund, said that in its first year it had paid out £300,000 in rewards and to finance investigations.

Leading article, page 19

## Pubs 'not places for a good meal'

FOR all its virtues, the British pub is still not the place to go for a good, reasonably-priced meal, according to a new Consumers' Association guide today to eating out on a budget.

Many pubs were "smokey and boozy", reeked of stale cooking oil and had no food on offer by mid-afternoon. Pub meals tasted the same, all over the country, and menus were often a standard list of "the contents of some food manufacturers' deep frozen list", says *Out to Eat*, a guide to the best bistros,

tea shops, sandwich bars, pizzerias, curry houses, fish and chip shops and pubs.

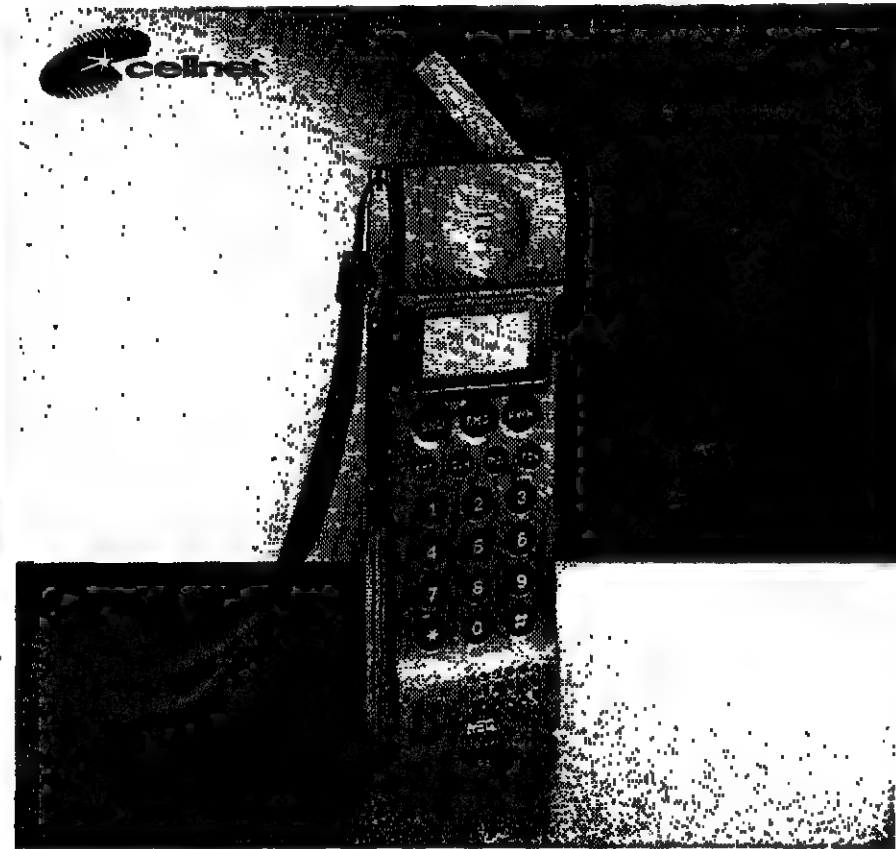
"Pubs are the most underrated, under-used catering outlets in Britain," the report said. The association found only a few hundred out of 40,000 pubs nationwide worthy of a mention. It was often impossible to get an afternoon snack in pubs at tourist spots. Tiny tea-rooms were frequently packed while the nearby pub was closed.

*Out to Eat* (Consumers' Association and Hodder and Stoughton, £9.95)

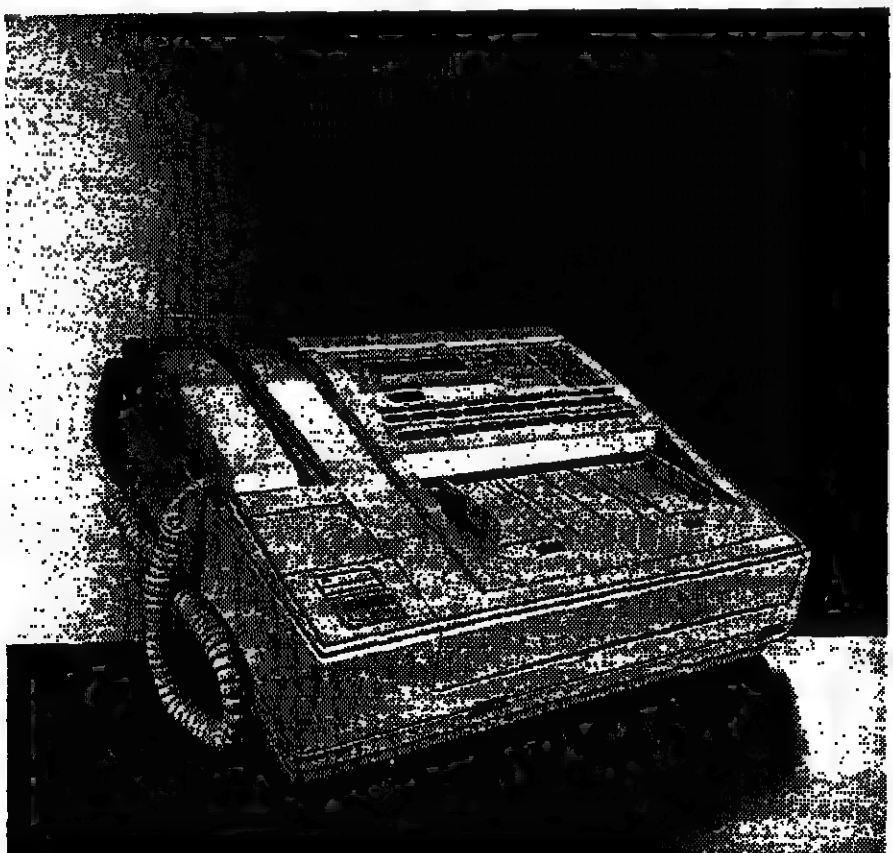
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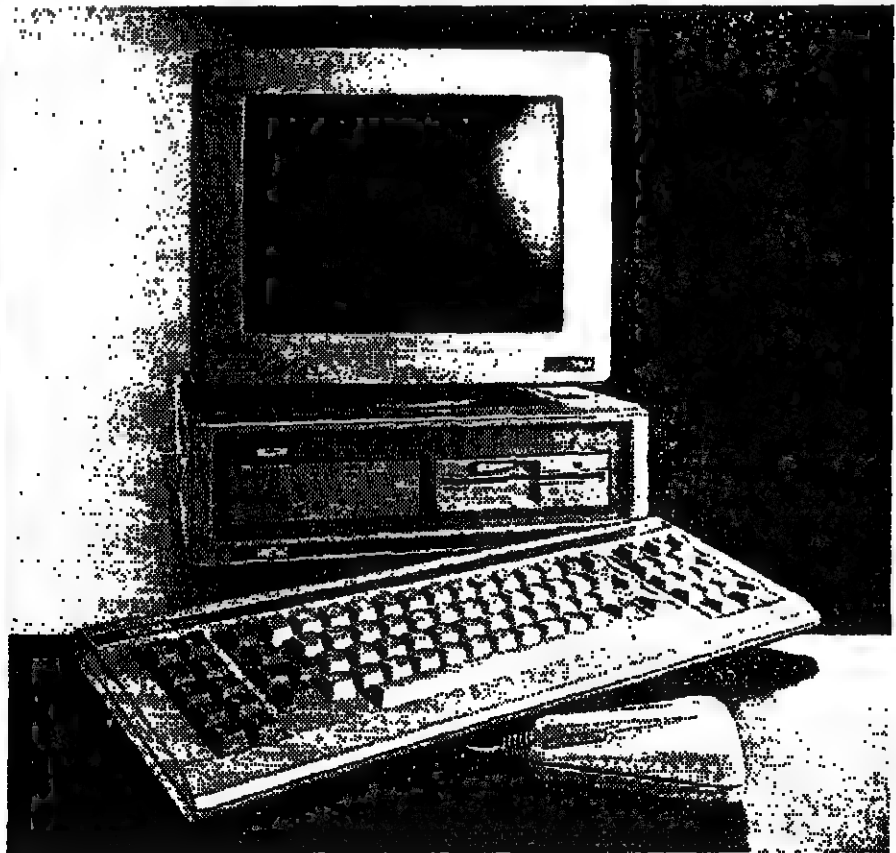
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# Scots have the highest quality of life in UK

By RAY CLANCY

FAMILIES in Scotland have the best quality of life in Britain, according to a report published today. It also says that in the UK as a whole people are paying less now than last year for the same standard of living.

## Dolphin charge to be denied

Alan Cooper, an animal rights campaigner, will deny a charge of indecency with a dolphin when the case goes to crown court, his solicitor told Alawick magistrates' court yesterday.

Mr Cooper, aged 38, of Gorton, Manchester, was not in court. He is accused of fondling Freddie, a tame bottlenose dolphin, in Ambic harbour, Northumberland, in September. The case was adjourned with a view to holding committal proceedings.

## Sea code urged

An international code of conduct to regulate Channel shipping would be a lasting tribute to the six crew of the Wilhelm J, who died when the trawler was run down by a Cypriot-registered ship, the Very Rev David Standiford, Provost of Portsmouth, said at a memorial service yesterday.



## Jails initiative

Prison staff must "audit" their race relations performance as part of an initiative to combat discrimination, racial abuse and stereotyping. Angela Rumbold (above), minister for prisons, said all prisoners should be treated with equality, humanity and respect.

## Out to grass

Qualcast is closing its lawnmower factory at Derby in July with the loss of 370 jobs. Sales have been hit by two dry summers and the recession.

## Facing facts

Police in Portsmouth seeking ten men with bushy beards to form an identity parade have managed to find only two.

# Sharp increase in railway suicides

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE number of suicides on London Underground has increased by 40 per cent since the 1960s, similar to the rise on mainline railways, an international conference on railway suicide was told yesterday.

Figures show that 3,240 people committed suicide on London Underground between 1940 and 1990. There are now on average 100 incidents on the network each year, about 60 of which end in death. Most incidents involve young males, many of whom are receiving psychiatric help and have no fixed home. The research shows that a disproportionate number of suicide attempts are at stations near psychiatric hospitals.

The findings are the interim results of a three-year project commissioned by London Underground to identify why people jump under trains, the effects of such incidents on staff, the disruption caused, and how suicide attempts can be discouraged. The research is being conducted by Richard Farmer and a team from the public health and epidemiology department of Charing Cross and Westminster medical school.

Train drivers have a one in 35 chance of being involved with a suicide attempt every year. That increases to one in 20 on the Northern Line

because of the high number of psychiatric hospitals on the route. Researchers found that a "one under" club had developed among drivers who encountered suicide attempts.

Those drivers often have post-traumatic stress disorders and depression, including flashbacks, feelings of guilt, sleepless nights and difficulty in driving trains. Stresses may lead to alcoholism, marital problems, and phobias, highlighting a need for better counselling.

Henry Fitzhugh, marketing director of London Underground, said: "When someone throws themselves under a train at Victoria station in the middle of the rush hour, it locks up the system for about an hour, and that has a time value of £50,000 to £70,000." People attempting suicide tended to opt for something they thought would work, Dr Fitzhugh said. However, 46 per cent of people who attempted suicide by throwing themselves under a train survived, often severely maimed, he said.

London Underground is hoping to reduce the number of suicide attempts by examining station layouts, reducing the risk of death with more pits under the tracks along platforms, and halting with psychiatric hospitals to identify vulnerable patients.

# French women head for tunnel

By LIN JENKINS

THE French share a British superstition: women are unlucky under ground. But seven have beaten that myth and work beneath ground on the French half of the Channel tunnel project. They are among 400 women employed on the French half of the project.

One of the elite band, Corinne Fermin, has been making history. Employed to record on video the progress of construction, she found the task put her own name in the history of the tunnel when she became the first woman to walk from the French section into the British side when she recorded the breakthrough four months ago.

Marie-André Durocq, as the industrial doctor, leads two nurses - Anne-Sophie Hamuck and Marie-Anne Denyck - into the tunnel each time there is an accident. Hélène Gouraud, a geologist aged 28, went from the solitary task of prospecting for uranium and gold to working on the tunnel and, like Régine Gourves, a quality control technician, was at first worried as to how she would adapt to the cramped surroundings and stale air. Now, they say, it does not bother them. The seventh, Jocya Hado, at 24 the youngest, is a security officer.



Off the beaten track: Hélène Gouraud, a geologist, on her rounds at the French end of the Channel tunnel

# Court finds against social fund appeals

By JILL SHERMAN  
SOCIAL SERVICES  
CORRESPONDENT

THREE men who were refused payments from the government's social fund failed in their challenge in the High Court yesterday.

Lord Justice Mann ruled that the government was entitled to exclude some claims from the fund, which he described as "the last public resort to which impoverished members of society can turn". John Healey, aged 48, had appealed against a refusal to give him £150 for clothing after being discharged from a psychiatric home. Fund officers had denied the money because he was in residential care, a category which can be excluded from eligibility for social fund payments. The judge said that this interpretation of the rules was correct.

Harry Smith, who lives in a caravan in a layby at Dilwyn, Hereford and Worcester, with his wife and daughter, wanted £1,000 to replace his caravan which was small and damp. However, the judge said the claim was to cover costs excluded from the fund.

The court also upheld directives which excluded Sam Sutt, of Wallaseid, Tynes and Wear, from receiving £85 to help to pay for assistance in looking after his six children while he was on an employment training scheme.

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## Winnie Mandela is called to account for delay on alibi

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

THE classic policeman's question, "Where were you on the night of...?", has assumed critical importance in the trial of Winnie Mandela on kidnapping and assault charges.

Mrs Mandela says she was in the Orange Free State when four young men were allegedly abducted from a church mission and badly beaten in her

home in Soweto, but the prosecution finds it strange that she produced this alibi only two years later, when she was brought to trial.

Under cross-examination yesterday by Jan Swaneepoel, for the state, Mrs Mandela was compelled to admit she had not mentioned the alibi when she was formally charged, or

in interviews with the media. She "could not remember" whether she had mentioned it to Soweto community leaders who accused her of involvement in the alleged offences.

On her evidence that several youths had been brought to her home to escape sexual abuse at a church mission, she could not remember whether she had informed her lawyer of this at the time. Mr Swaneepoel produced a letter from the lawyer, written six months after the alleged kidnapping, in which he said he had not heard any reports of misconduct at the mission.

Mrs Mandela was at a loss to explain why the youths should fabricate evidence against her. She said: "At this moment I can't give you a reason. Perhaps as we go along, I may be able to give you a reason." Mr Swaneepoel said: "If over a period of two years you could not come up with a reason, how do you expect to do so now?" Mrs Mandela replied: "I hope I will learn the reason in court." Earlier, she dismissed heads of the anti-apartheid movement, who accused her bodyguards of waging a reign of terror in Soweto, as "a handful of so-called leaders". They included senior executives of the United Democratic Front and allied groups who led the campaign against apartheid while ANC leaders were in prison.

## Reprieve for white killer angers blacks

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

BLACK leaders yesterday expressed disgust over the reprieve of a white mass murderer who is among 17 killers whose death sentences have been commuted to terms of imprisonment by President de Klerk.

Barend Strydom, a former policeman who claimed to be leader of the *Wit Wolf* (white wolves), an extremist right-wing group, shot dead a black squatter in November 1988, and four days later murdered seven more blacks in Pretoria. His death sentence has been commuted to imprisonment for life, together with that on Robert McBride, a Coloured man who detonated a car bomb outside a beachfront restaurant in Durban in June 1986, killing three women and

injuring 69 other people. The African National Congress said yesterday linking the two drew "an unfair equation" between their deeds.

Saki Macozoma, an ANC spokesman, said McBride opposed apartheid and was fighting for a non-racial South Africa but Strydom acted out of hatred for blacks and a desire to retain apartheid. Dr Nchane Mokoape, of the Azanian People's Organisation, said the government was "using some trade-off between genuine freedom fighters and some fascist killers".

Thirteen of the reprieved men had committed "necklace" murders. Two were sentenced to death for rape and a non-political murder.



Grizzly furs: an Australian customs officer, Sue Ford, surveying some of the skins of animals - all protected species - imported into the country and confiscated by the customs authorities over the past year. An exhibition in Sydney includes a stuffed eight-foot grizzly bear, a rare leopard skin, turtle shells, and bags, shoes, briefcases and belts, all made from protected species (Reuters reports from Sydney). Australia belongs to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora which imposes import controls

## Hunger stalks the Greene paddy fields

FROM JAMES PRINGLE ON ROUTE NUMBER ONE, CAMBODIA

THE potholed road linking Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, in Vietnam with the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh straddles a scorched landscape of dried, cracked rice paddies where occasional figures move listlessly.

Drought, a lack of fertiliser because of a cut-off in Soviet supplies, and the displacement of 186,000 people in the latest phase of Cambodia's 12-year civil war have caused the Vietnam-backed Phnom Penh government to appeal for 100,000 tonnes of rice to feed a rural population threatened by malnutrition.

The 152-mile, six-hour drive in the hottest month of the year yesterday was a journey between two worlds, the now peaceful Vietnam and a Cambodia still engulfed in war. On the overpopulated Vietnamese side, every inch of land is irrigated and cultivated. In Cambodia, the population seems to fall away. The countryside appears almost bereft of human life.

There is little danger on this road, although four-man patrols of Khmer Rouge guerrillas are operating in eastern Cambodia. But the preponderance of guns on the Cambodian side of the border at Bavel indicates that the traveller is entering a war zone.

By contrast, Highway One from Saigon to Moc Bai, on the Vietnamese side of the frontier in Tay Ninh province, is peaceful, though it was not always so. Since French colonial times, the road was subject to attack by the Viet Minh and their successors, the Viet Cong.

In one of Graham Greene's novels, *The Quiet American*, the vehicle of the British journalist Fowler breaks down on this route, and he spends the night in a watchtower with local force soldiers as the Viet Minh roam the fields around. A few of the old French blockhouses remain.

Fowler was on his way back from a ceremony at a church of the Cao Dai religion, a curious sect that combines Buddhism, Confucianism and Christianity and counts Winston Churchill among its minor saints. These pale blue and pink churches, with their eye of God, are still here and near one of them a photographer took one of the most poignant pictures of the Vietnam war, that of a little girl running naked down Highway One after a napalm attack.

Yesterday, near the Cao Dai church, women wearing limp-shaped hats were working in the rice fields.

At the Vietnamese frontier post, a bright young Vietnamese immigration officer who spoke English and is learning Cambodian led me to a vantage point to see the Black Virgin mountain, the sacred peak that Greene wrote "stood like a bowler hat" above Tay Ninh.

On the Cambodian side, a customs officer pocketed Vietnamese banknotes handed over by a woman, no doubt in exchange for letting contraband through. Small traders were carrying rubber flip-flops, Chinese vacuum flasks and cartons of British cigarettes. The Vietnam-Cambodia border is not just a frontier between two countries, but between two civilisations, the Chinese-Confucian one of Vietnam and the Indian-Brahmin one of Cambodia. In Cambodia, things move at a slower pace, and

## Bribery claim by Briton

Bangkok - A Briton charged with smuggling 3.3lb of pure heroin told a Thai court that police who arrested him had accepted bribes. Stephen Harris, barefoot and wearing leg irons, switched an earlier guilty plea to not guilty at the three-hour hearing. He faces a possible death sentence, although no Westerner has been executed in Thailand.

Mr Harris, aged 27, from Nottingham, accused a colonel and a sergeant of receiving £950 and a gold chain. His lawyer, Vichien Panyankarn, said Mr Harris gave the money and chain to a Thai girl, who said she would try to bribe the police into releasing him. Police freed the girl without taking details or charging her after Mr Harris's arrest in a Bangkok flat last December, he said. Colonel Sawang Vibulphong denied the charge.

Mr Vichien asked Mr Harris to restrain himself after he continually pointed at the colonel and shook his head during the hearing. (Reuters)

## Students protest

Seoul - Students threw petrol bombs as police escorted a university campus to crush a rally against President Gorbachev's planned visit to South Korea later this week. Students said the trip would "perpetuate the division of the Korean peninsula", and accused President Roh Tae Woo of "beggar's diplomacy". (Reuters)

## Rally blocked

Taipei - About 10,000 people marched through central Taipei demanding the resignation of elderly Nationalist MPs and democratic reform, but were prevented by barbed-wire barricades and a cordon of thousands of police, from reaching a main square in which opposition leaders were staging a rally. (Reuters)

## Profits chopped

Peking - China's chopstick makers increased exports by 12 per cent last year, but earnings, at \$20 million (£1.2 million), were unchanged, the *China Daily* said. Most exports go to Japan and South Korea, and trade officials blamed poor quality and price competition for the fall in profits. (AFP)

## Peking to try more activists

FROM REUTERS IN PEKING

CHINA will try two leading student activists soon, despite assurances from senior officials that court cases linked to the 1989 pro-democracy protests were virtually completed. Chinese sources said yesterday. Wang Zhiqin, a student at the leading law school in China, and Li Mingqi, a Peking university liberal arts student, would soon be tried for counter-revolutionary crimes.

Activists also said that a Peking court had rejected an appeal by Wang Dan, the history graduate who headed the government's list of most-wanted students after the army crushed demonstrations, held in Tiananmen Square, on June 3-4, 1989.

Wang Zhiqin has been charged with counter-revolutionary propaganda and agitation, according to his associates. He had evaded capture for nearly a year with the help of friends and sympathisers. Mr Li, who spoke out at an anti-government rally on June 3 last year, will be tried on charges of propagating and inciting counter-revolution, university sources said.

## Indian MPs count their lucky stars

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

JITENDRA Nath Sharma is fed up with politicians. After telling their fortunes and hearing their most intimate fears for 20 years as one of India's leading astrologers, he says: "We should put them in zoos and let the animals out."

With the general election just over a month away, every politician is heading for his astrologer. Mr Sharma knows them all. Chandra Shekhar, the prime minister, has sought his guidance. So has V. P. Singh, the former prime minister. Indira Gandhi saw him frequently. At times like this, a ceaseless tide of MPs washes up on his doorstep. "They take the advice of their wives first, their astrologers second," he says with a smile. "Most of them are a pathetic lot."

For all his contempt, politicians follow his advice with grim seriousness, right down to the last mantra. An MP might bow out of office if the auguries for re-election are bleak. All prime ministers routinely consult astrologers before important decisions. "You can change the future if you are forewarned about it. Nothing is fixed," Mr Sharma declares. "I might tell somebody to change the course of

events by doing *puja* (a prayer ritual). We are all entirely responsible for our own futures. All politicians in this country have evil auras."

Mr Chandra Shekhar, it seems, is astonished that he ever became prime minister. Perhaps he will not be astonished to learn that he will never be prime minister again. Nor, it seems, will Mr Singh. Mr Sharma predicts that Rajiv Gandhi will return to power after the May 20-26 general election as head of a fragile coalition government. There will be political chaos for one year and two months, after which Mr Gandhi will fade into history and a natural leader will emerge. "He will be a new Mahatma Gandhi, a truly great man. I do not yet know who it is."

Nancy Reagan once called Mr Sharma to Washington to ask about her husband's health. The Shah of Iran summoned him to Tehran for five days to ask whether he should flee. Mr Sharma predicted calamity. In 1989 he wrote that by 1991 Margaret Thatcher would be out of power. He thinks her aura is "hard". He has yet to decide about John Major.

NEW YORK NOTEBOOK by Charles Bremner

## Advertisers create a stir with old beans

Americans know that the Queen drinks a particular brand of coffee at tea-time because they have seen her sipping it by her Buckingham Palace fireside in television commercials that have been running for months. Her Majesty is shown only in silhouette, but there is no mistaking her because Big Ben is striking outside the window, fierce corgis are at her feet, and the butler is straight out of *Upstairs, Downstairs*.

American advertisers have used plummy English accents, posh fogs and country houses to peddle their products for so long that a generation of Americans were amazed when chaps in baggy shorts totting teddybears did not turn up in *Spirited* to take a crack at President Saddam Hussein.

The formula works even for goods which have almost nothing to do with Britain. A brand of French mustard, for example, is known to American viewers as the favourite of fellows who wind down the windows of their Rolls-Royces and say to the occupant of the next car, also a Rolls, of course: "Pardon me, but would you have any?"

Over the past couple of months, however, the Nestlé company has tried a new approach, taking its

British Gold Blend campaign, the serial romance between coffee-loving neighbours, and Americanised it, using the same British actors. The result has provoked something of a sensation.

In the American version, Tony Head, the actor, puts on an unconvincing American accent, while Sharon Mughan (pronounced Mawm), his neighbour, hams up every American's idea of an upper-class Brit. The results are unintentionally hilarious, provoking *The Washington Post* to report that there is "more eyebrow activity than has been seen on television since Groucho Marx".

Not long ago, anyone who suggested inviting the Central Intelligence Agency to teach courses at American universities would have been sent for a mental health check. But images change, and the wicked covert operators of yore have gone the way of platform shoes and vinyl records. To the dismay of those who think the academic world has little to learn in the field of plots and conspiracy, more than a hundred universities are now offering undergraduate courses in spying and they are oversubscribed. The classes, which



In a dozen universities are taught by CIA "officers in residence", are not so much about hiding micro-dots in tooth fillings as they are about analysing data. In one typical exercise, students have to identify a missile site from a satellite photograph.

But the mystique is undiminished. "It's a topic that has a fair amount of sex appeal," said Lester Paldi, a lecturer in intelligence technology at the State University of New York. Scott Rausch, one of his

students, agreed. "It's still exciting. You just don't have women and fast cars and stuff," he said.

At the National Intelligence Study Centre, a spokeswoman said spying was once again patriotic and glamorous. "The whole student body has changed. They're trying to get into the CIA. A lot are calling us to find out how to apply." The agency could not be happier: it has had 150,000 applications for jobs so far this year.

Nervous men kissed on the cheek. Their women stood weeping a respectful distance away in a sea of flowers, and the FBI watched from across the street. The scene at Raccuglia's Funeral Home in Brooklyn was a set piece from *The Godfather*. The Gambino family had come to grieve over Bobby Borriello, the driver and confidant of John Gotti, the alleged boss of America's biggest surviving Mafia clan, who died when someone put ten bullets into him as he stepped out of his car.

By the mob's rules, the driver is a senior soldier, so "whacking" him is deemed a "major message", especially since Mr Borriello was said to be a favourite of Mr Gotti, who is now in jail awaiting trial on charges of murder and racketeering.

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# Cool Kaifu response to Gorbachev plan for new Pacific order

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

PRESIDENT Gorbachev yesterday unveiled a plan to reduce the Soviet military presence in the Asia-Pacific region and again called for a five-nation Asia-Pacific security framework, inviting the United States, Japan, China and India to join the Soviet Union in building a new order in the region.

Mr Gorbachev put his proposals to Toshiki Kaifu, the prime minister, during their morning talks. Later, addressing the Diet (parliament) in his first important Asia-Pacific policy speech in almost three years, Mr Gorbachev also proposed a new relationship with Japan and a trilateral conference with Japan and the United States to

"remove suspicions and build confidence through concrete agreement". He put forward the idea of a Soviet-Japanese security conference and a zone of co-operation in northeast Asia around the Japan Sea.

Mr Kaifu is understood to have responded negatively to the Soviet leader's proposal for a five-nation framework, which is seen here as an Asian version of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. Mr Gorbachev first proposed the scheme in a 1986 speech in Vladivostok.

Such a new order is meaningless for Japan without a solution to the territorial dispute over the four Kurile islands, off the country's northern coast, which have

been occupied by the Soviet Union since 1945.

In his speech to the Diet, Mr Gorbachev officially referred to the territorial dispute, saying that "there is a need to resolve problems between our two countries, including the issue of demarcation of territory". He added that recent changes in Europe in response to perestroika should also be reflected in the Asia-Pacific region.

In spite of the territorial impasse, Japan would rather not contemplate any deal that requires it to take the initiative in regional security. Mr Kaifu told Mr Gorbachev that Tokyo considered it more effective to tackle regional security problems, such as the Cambodian conflict, on a bilateral rather than a multilateral basis.

Mr Gorbachev and Mr Kaifu spent more than two hours last night in one-to-one discussions about the territorial problem. No details were revealed, but the two leaders will have an unscheduled fourth meeting this morning.

Mr Kaifu told Mr Gorbachev of his concern over the redeployment of Soviet weapons east of the Urals, the traditional geographic boundary between Europe and Asia. According to Japan's defence agency, the Soviet army already deploys about 60 per cent of its 41 far eastern army divisions, some 360,000 men, within 750 miles of northern Japan. About 70 per cent of the 2,240 fighters and bombers in the Soviet far east are stationed along the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk, and more than 800 Soviet warships from the Pacific fleet are in the region.

Yesterday was not without its traumas. As the two leaders got down to their face-to-face talks, Valentin Fedorov, the governor of Sakhalin, the large Russian Federation island north of Japan, and an official member of Mr Gorbachev's entourage, suddenly pecked his bags and flew home, apparently angry that he had not been allowed to take part in the diplomatic talks. He has in the past strongly expressed his opposition to the return of the Kuriles, south and east of Sakhalin, to Japan.

## Soviet spanners in Tokyo clockwork

By JOANNA PITMAN

IN A country where punctuality is close to godliness President Gorbachev and his wife, Raisa, have raised a few eyebrows and confounded Japanese foreign ministry planners with impulsive schedule changes.

Emperor Akihito, Empress Michiko and 150 of Japan's most exalted dignitaries set twiddling their thumbs on Tuesday evening waiting for the Soviet couple to arrive at an imperial banquet. The Gorbachevs had decided to tack on an extra 17 minutes to their scheduled 24 at a classical concert held in their honour. Tasty Japanese officials ushered the presidential party into their bomb-proof limousines with more than usual urgency. In Japan, nobody keeps the emperor waiting.

Mrs Gorbachev has kept her own posse of police on their toes with several spontaneous forays into the crowds. On Tuesday she stopped her limousine in the Ginza shopping district to shake hands with shoppers. A crying baby and its mother sat in the car as anxious policemen pondered frisking the infant.

Yesterday Mrs Gorbachev,

picked her high-heeled way through piles of writhing octopus tentacles and tons of fish in Tokyo's Tsukiji market. Perhaps symbolic of slippery bilateral relations, Mrs Gorbachev was presented with a small squid and a sizeable flounder.

Clutching the damp offerings Mrs Gorbachev was



Empress Michiko kept waiting at a banquet rushed off - 32 minutes late - to meet Kiyoshi and Kyoko Inoue, chosen by the foreign ministry as Mr and Mrs

Inoue live in a house with a garden which is probably worth about £2 million, putting them rather above average.



Here's looking at you: Mr Gorbachev sharing a toast with Japanese businessmen at a Tokyo lunch yesterday

## ZiL keeps the red flag flying

FROM MARY DEWESKY IN MOSCOW

IF RECENT weeks have given the impression that the Soviet Union is a fiercely erupting volcano of industrial discontent in which even the directors are stoking the flames, the ZiL motor works in Moscow offers a sound corrective.

At ZiL, purveyor of stretch-limousines to Soviet rulers and a bare 15 minutes' drive from the Kremlin, a strike is a concept as un-Russian as a morning suit and as unnecessary as a zip in a banana. Vladimir Korneyev, the deputy director, said: "Our workers don't have time to demonstrate, they are here, doing what they are supposed to be doing - working."

There is an unofficial trade union at ZiL, although the head of the official union there, Mikhail Aliyev, says he is unaware of it. "Why would anyone need an unofficial trade



Memory lane: undeterred by perestroika, ZiL produces limousines in the old ways

union? We put the workers' interests first."

ZiL and its management offer a haven of bolshevism in a fast-changing world. Founded as a private concern in 1916, its first vehicles came off the production line only in 1924. They were the first all-Soviet lorries, and they have been in production more or less ever since.

Mr Korneyev, a dapper grey-haired Muscovite, looks back with nostalgia to those early days when heavy industry was what the Soviet Union was all about, the guiding purpose to make the country economically independent of the West. Now, he says, the biggest difficulty is staff turnover. The average pay of 300 roubles (£300) a month before the recent compensation for price rises is insufficient to keep trained staff. Even the 500 roubles that ZiL hopes to pay by the end of the year will not be

enough. Co-operative ventures offer 800 to 900 roubles. Moscow industry is so short-staffed that any bankrupt privateer can return to the trade he left.

Along with the limousines, which are made only to order, ZiL produces 700 lorries a day. They are said to be the only vehicles in the world, apart from Rolls-Royces, where the body and the chassis are put together by hand. The biggest recent change has been to switch from diesel to petrol engines. A computerised production line now allows the simultaneous assembly of both types. The managers say the right engine is automatically mounted into the right body, but a shadow of doubt remains. There is much hammering of recalcitrant parts into place.

Like many Soviet factories, the ZiL works provides everything the workers and their families are supposed to need. "They

complain to us about the state of city transport, or about the 5 per cent sales tax," Mr Aliyev said. "But what can we do?" Within the works, Mr Korneyev regards a seven-year waiting list for housing as an achievement. As he tells it, everyone has a subsidised bedroom, subsidised clothes and consumer goods, and eat for a couple of roubles in the canteen.

What if policy changed and ZiL were privatised? The deputy director became almost truculent. "I am an implacable opponent of private enterprise. I don't want ZiL to be private. It would not survive as a private factory because it would not have the resources for renewal. And the collective takes the same view." The collective - at lunch in the canteen or basking in the spring sunshine - was old-fashioned enough not to demur.

## Serbian workers call off strike

Belgrade - About 700,000 workers in the Yugoslav republic of Serbia ended their strike after the state's parliament approved government pledges to pay back wages, cut taxes and reform the welfare system.

The biggest work stoppage the country has seen in decades began on Tuesday and posed a serious challenge to Serbia's leadership, which is battling with rival republics over Yugoslavia's fate. Most strikers - almost a third of Serbia's labour force - have not been paid for months.

The republic's government, which had said the state coffers were empty, intends to meet back payments and cut taxes either by getting the federal government to relax its tight monetary policy or by cutting Serbia's payments to Yugoslav funds.

In Croatia the parliament voted overwhelmingly to accelerate secession from the disintegrating Yugoslav federation of six republics. The move was seen by critics as brinkmanship in advance of today's meeting of republican leaders to discuss the country's future. (AP)

## Soaring crime

Bucharest - Romania has been hit by a crime wave, with embezzlement, fraud, robbery, murder, police corruption and organised juvenile crime on the rise. According to police figures, 28,722 crimes were committed in the first quarter of the year, compared with only 9,264 in the same period last year. (Reuters)

## Hostage freed

Blanco - A 34-year-old doctor who was kidnapped four months ago and for whom a ransom of 700 million lire (£560,000) had already been paid by relatives, has been rescued from a mountain in southern Italy. Police had to convince him they were not kidnappers playing a joke. (Reuters)

## Pollution claim

Rome - Italy is to claim compensation for pollution caused by the Cypriot-registered tanker, Haven, which sank with much of its cargo of oil in the Bay of Genoa. The tanker spilled thousands of tons of oil into the bay as it burnt for four days before the sinking. (Reuters)

## Antall recovers

Budapest - Jozsef Antall, the Hungarian prime minister, who has been under treatment for cancer, has made a full recovery and is to go ahead with trips to Japan, Canada, Spain and Israel. He may also visit Moscow to sign an agreement on future relations with the Soviet Union. (Reuters)

## Whaling threat

Oslo - Norway wants the International Whaling Commission to end a ban on commercial whaling and plans to kill more minke whales for research from 1992, the fisheries ministry said. The 36-nation commission banned commercial minke whale catches for five years in 1986. (Reuters)

## Rust 'disturbed'

Hamburg - Matthias Rust, aged 23, who became a German folk hero when, in May 1987, he flew a Cessna 172 from Finland to Red Square in Moscow, is mentally disturbed, Johann Burchard, a psychiatrist, told a court. Mr Rust is accused of attempting to murder, by stabbing, a student nurse. (AP)

## Insults pepper Bonn accord

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

IT SEEMED a good idea when the German government and opposition agreed last Friday to work together in two committees to rescue eastern Germany from economic collapse. Before a single meeting can be arranged, however, both sides are at each other's throat.

Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, yesterday ruled out any idea that the Social Democrats (SPD) would be allowed to discuss government policy. Hans-Jochen Vogel, the opposition leader, implied this made little difference since the

government was now largely following the interventionist policy of the SPD.

The tone of the exchanges is growing more vitriolic. The chancellor should whistle off the fireworks of his party, said Franz Herta Dübeler-Greif, the deputy SPD leader. The SPD was falsely raising the expectations of poor people in eastern Germany, countered Volker Rübe, general secretary of the chancellor's Christian Democrats (CDU).

Certainly electioneering is involved, since Rhineland-

Palatinate, Herr Kohl's home state, votes for a new parliament on Sunday. Voters there have always picked a CDU government, but opinion polls show the SPD in the lead, and Herr Kohl's party risks a humiliating defeat.

Despite the argument, the government has abandoned its reliance on private investment to pull the east out of economic difficulties. Treasuries, the agency set up to privatise old communist combines, is now helping lame-duck industries to survive, rather than killing them off.

## Imam shows Albanians how to pray

FROM TIM JUDAH IN TIRANA

ACROSS Tirana's great Skanderbeg Square, where Albanians once roared for their Stalinist dictator, Enver Hoxha, a new chant can be heard: "God is great and Muhammad is his prophet." Inside the square's 18th-century mosque, some 40 men sit listening to their imam while outside scores crowd the door and windows trying to catch a glimpse of what is happening. The men inside do not bow and stand in the traditional manner because most of them do not know how.

From 1967 until three months ago, religion was illegal in Albania. Hoxha declared his country the world's first atheist state, closed churches and mosques, and jailed anyone who showed any inclination towards their faith. Today, Muslims, who are some two-thirds of Albania's population, making it Europe's only Muslim majority country, are curious again about their religion.

"I came to teach the people how to pray," said Ibrahim Sulaiman, an imam from Egypt who causes heads to turn as he strides across the square in his grey robes and with a white umbrella. "The old men still remember what to do, but

the fact is that the young people know nothing. Since the government does not help Islam here, then it is the duty of Muslims to help each other."

Those who come to the two mosques that have reopened in Tirana have terrifying tales to tell. According to Ilir Mullisi, aged 34, throughout the years of the ban on religion, some Muslims came together to pray secretly. He said: "Four years ago I went to one of these underground gatherings. There were about ten people, but I was too scared to go again, because if we had been caught it would have meant ten years in jail."

Mehmet Sinella, aged 67, trained as a Muslim leader - ironically, in Albanian, a *hozhë* - in the 1940s. He came from a family which had been *hozhës* for nine generations. As early Albanian socialism had already scared so many people away from public worship, he became a teacher but he soon lost his job. In 1947 he defied a ban on teachers praying ("in case they influenced young people"). Because of his background, Mr Sinella says he never dared go to an underground prayer meeting, and in what must be one of the most terrible indictments of Albanian tyranny said: "I was so scared that I dared not pray

even at home in the middle of the night. There were spies everywhere." Some did defy fear though. Hafiz Hassan Qytiku said he secretly kept his Koran while the authorities gathered all religious works to burn them. "I never let go of it."

Under the dome of Tirana's second mosque, built in 1929, one old man said: "When they closed the mosques our leader said, 'The earth is enough for us'. He was right, we can pray anywhere." Today the delicate painted flowers of the mosque are flaking, but its floor is covered in new richly coloured rugs. It still smells faintly of the tobacco that was stored here during the 24-year ban.

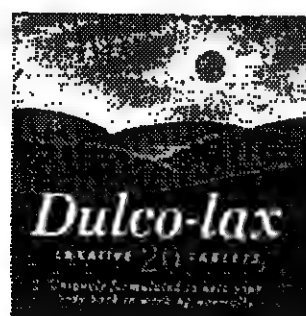
Even though at least one mosque has reopened in each of Albania's main towns, they are not full. "Most people are curious but no more," said Andi Dervishi, a student, Svetlana Rocca, who works in a Tirana ministry, said: "We were never a religious people. I think that if they had not closed the mosques and churches no one would go today. Those who do go do so because it was forbidden." It is an argument rejected by Mehmet Sinella, who said: "Muslim Albanians were religious and they loved their faith, but it is true that they did not love it like the Arabs do."

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# Victory for the greens

The latest dietary advice is that doubling our fruit and vegetable intake could save lives. Ann Kent reports

Parents who urge offspring to "finish up your vegetables" will now have the might of the World Health Organisation (WHO) behind them. The children might consider investing their pocket money in fruit and vegetable futures.

A WHO report, to be launched by the Consumers' Association in the House of Commons today, says that most of us need to double the amount of fruit and vegetables in our diets. In fact the report, the first to look at the association of diet with a wide range of diseases, puts unprecedented emphasis on the value of these foods.

According to "Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases", our consumption should be at least 1lb weight a day of fruit and vegetables (not including potatoes) — about twice the amount currently eaten. The report explains that the modern high-fat, high-energy diet has outstripped the capacity of the human body to adapt to such foods. It urges a return to the kind of diet which fuelled most of human evolution: low in fat, very low in sugar and high in fibre and other complex carbohydrates.

If the report's suggestion that we double our consumption of complex carbohydrates — starchy foods such as bread, rice, pasta, beans, and potatoes — is met, then another guideline on doubling the national fibre intake can easily be met. The objective of these changes is to reduce the number of people who are killed or disabled in middle age as a result of diet-induced cancers, heart disease and diabetes. The report says that third world populations that move from a carbohydrate-dominated diet to one rich in fats are already experiencing a greater toll of these diseases.

According to Richard Peto, of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's cancer trials unit, the evidence that fruit and vegetables protect against cancer and heart disease is "suggestive" rather than conclusive. However, Mr Peto, who was not involved with writing the WHO report, is pleased that the recommendations emphasise a reduction in dietary fat. He is convinced by the evidence linking fats, cholesterol and heart disease.

The report admits that it is not known exactly how fruit and vegetables may protect against heart disease and cancer. However, many researchers believe protection is achieved by the anti-oxidant effects of vitamins C, E and beta-carotene. The vitamins mop up harmful free radicals of oxygen, unstable particles which are believed to interfere with the structure of fats in the blood and artery walls. An excess of free radicals may also damage healthy tissues, and anti-oxidant vitamins are believed to limit this damage, preventing the development of cancers of the lung, colon, bladder, rectum, oral cavity, stomach, cervix and oesophagus.

But people who do not want to make radical changes to their diet will not be able to take vitamin pills instead. It is possible that fruit and vegetables contain other protective substances, as yet undiscovered. Professor Philip James, the British chairman of the study group which produced the WHO report, adds: "The benefits of eating more fruit and vegetables outweigh a hundredfold the theoretical and unproven risks of taking in extra pesticides."

Moreover, attempting to meet the increased complex carbohydrate requirement without extra fruit and vegetables would produce a starchy, boring diet. Doing without both would lead the hungry consumer straight back to the cake tin. In line with earlier nutritional advice, the WHO targets require a halving of the average consumption of sugar and salt, and a reduction of about a third of total fat consumed. But are such goals achievable in a society in which food is bound up with pleasure and gratification?



Picture of health: detail from *The Face*, by the 16th century artist Giuseppe Arcimbaldo

Alison Black, a state registered dietician with the Medical Research Council's Dunn Nutrition Unit, is doubtful. She questions whether the WHO recommendation of a maximum fat intake of 30 per cent of energy (calories) can be achieved easily. "We went down to 30 per cent fat in the second world war, and people felt pretty deprived. It is very hard

to reduce fat and sugar at the same time without losing weight and feeling hungry. I think 35 per cent of energy would be a more realistic target for the fat."

Sue Dibb, of the independent food watchdog, the Food Commission, believes that most people have no idea of the percentage of fat and sugar in their diets, and that we need more "user-friendly" labelling. "At present some food manufacturers hide the added sugar in their products by listing it under carbohydrates, for instance," she says. "The best advice people can have is to buy and cook and use fresh whole products every day."

Professor James, the director of the Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen, believes that the diet is achievable and

palatable. "I follow these guidelines myself. The fruit, vegetables and cereals will not only fill you up, but have major health benefits. You can produce a diet based on our recommendations with a glorious array of tastes."

Despite its emphasis on fruit, vegetables and cereals, the WHO report avoids recommending a vegetarian diet. "We deliberately struck a middle course because, in the third world, iron deficiency is affecting the brain development of children, and for them the best way of avoiding that is to include a little meat in the diet," Professor James says. But, he adds, well balanced vegetarian diets in more affluent groups are perfectly acceptable.

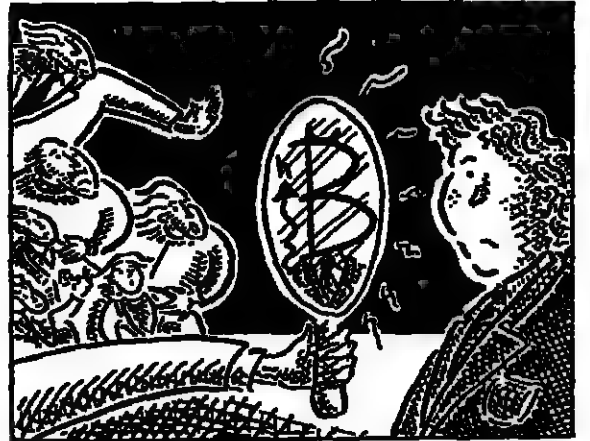
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## MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttford

### Cost of happiness

PHOTOGRAPHS of Daniel Robinson, the seven-year-old Huddersfield boy whose continuing school attendance has caused uproar, show him unsmiling and wary. Daniel is a chronic hepatitis B carrier. Although he may look alone, worldwide there are up to 200 million people chronically infected with hepatitis B. When hepatitis B is caught at birth, as it often is in those developing countries where it is endemic, more than 90 per cent of victims will become carriers. When caught later in life, only 10 per cent become carriers. A molecular test now enables doctors to detect the presence of the DNA of hepatitis B virus. If the DNA is present, the patient is classified as being highly infectious; if absent, the chance of the blood being infectious is very low.

As hepatitis B is associated with minority groups — patients from the third world, homosexuals and bisexuals, drug addicts and



health workers — the integration of infected children is of considerable social importance. An internationally respected expert on hepatitis B said this week that the chance of another child catching it from playground contact is very low, but added that parents are not interested in statistics; they want to be reassured that the risk for their own children is zero. Some countries have overcome

this problem by vaccination. There is no medical reason why Daniel should not attend school with complete safety if Britain adopted vaccination, but in its desire to save cash the NHS provides the injection only for those minority groups considered to be at risk. The cost of the vaccine needed for the three injections is £55.53; individuals who wanted it could always consult their own GP.

### Sexual power of the root

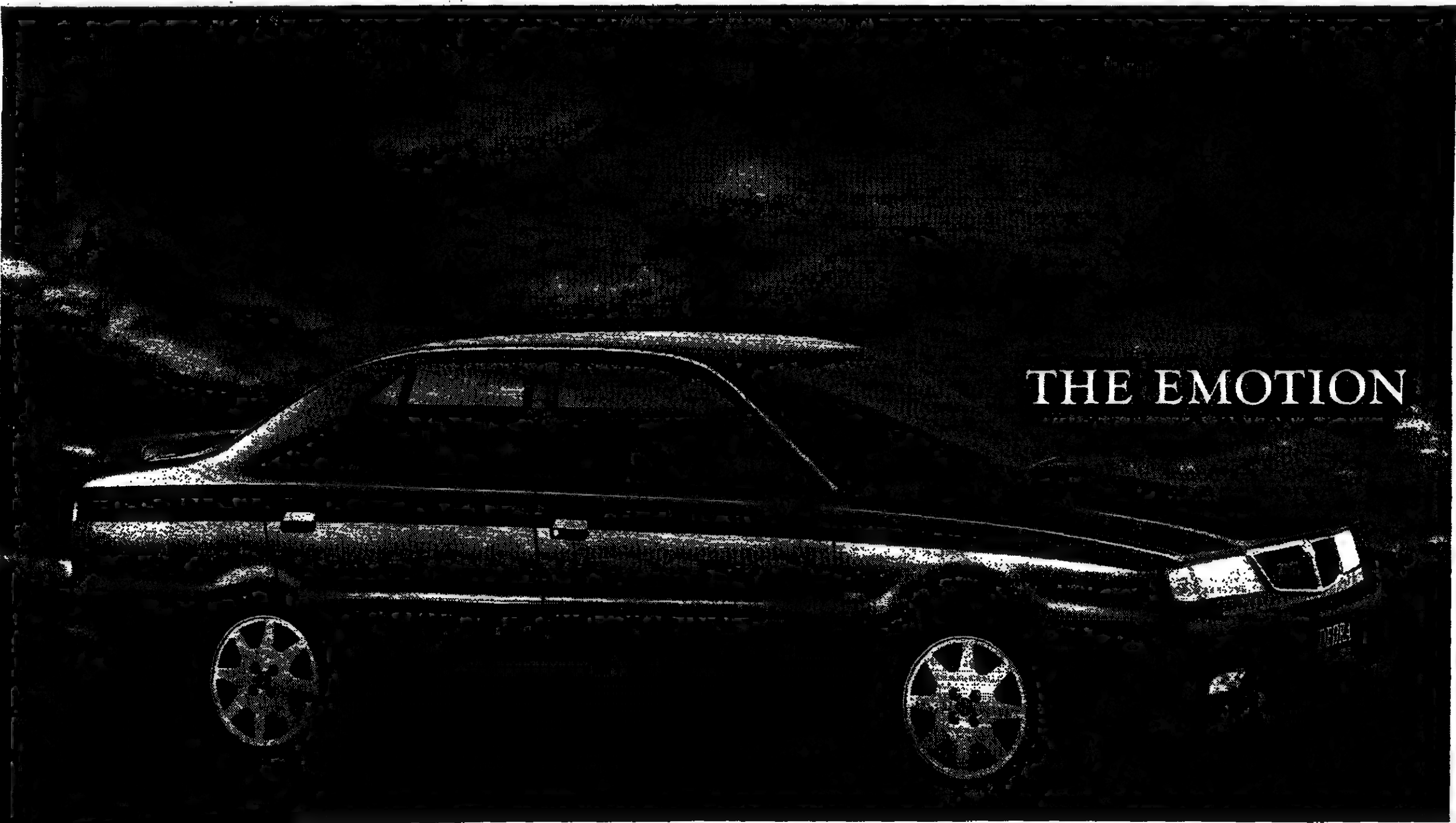
DESPITE the announcement this week that the International Olympic Committee had cleared ginseng of being a drug, people might be unwise to disparage its power. The root contains several saponin glycosides, which animal experiments have shown to have a wide range of pharmacological actions, including the ability to increase testosterone levels in rats, and the size of the testicles in rabbits. The *Journal of the American Medical Association* reports that a nurse who took twice the recommended dose of ginseng throughout her pregnancy gave birth to an unusually well-grown boy with thick pubic hair, adult-size testes and a hairy forehead. Only when the baby was weaned did these inappropriate signs of maturity recede. Chinese doctors usually prescribe ginseng only for middle-aged and elderly patients.



### Sizing up the rabies problem

IN THE normal course of events, to be savaged by Gary and Yvonne Wilson's tosaiken, should it ever lose its apparent good nature, would obviously be more distressing than to be nipped by Dino, the minute chihuahua treasured by Patrick Robertson, the founder of the Bruges Group. But rabies would render a bite from a tosaiken or a chihuahua equally lethal. Despite the pleas of doting owners, the danger to the

community from pet smuggling is not inversely proportional to the pet's cuddliness. Recent reports show that the advance of rabies has continued into northern France, and isolated cases have occurred within a few miles of Channel ports. The risk to the average traveller in Europe, or even to cosmopolitan centres in more exotic places, is low provided that the temptation to pat stray dogs, or stray cats, is resisted. Anybody who intends to live in an area where rabies is endemic, particularly if they come into contact with animals, should be vaccinated. Since the introduction by the Mérieux Institute of human diploid vaccine, immunisation is safe, effective and no more painful than any other injection. Three intramuscular doses are given, the first two separated by a month, the third six to 12 months later; boosters are needed every third year. Veterinary surgeons, kennel workers and some Customs officers need vaccination.



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## Occulting the President

**BUMPER** sex, that old structural prop of the thriller (pages 28, 64, 109, etc.), is less permissible than it used to be. The hot-blooded and beautiful Darya, Russian temptress — dispenser of double-alpha "whole-body orgasms" and super-brainy with it — comes on like some voluptuous anachronism, an ultimate, mind-bending villainess out of Bond, with a dash of de Sade, bad girls have more fun is the message, especially when telephatic. In *The Power* James Mills enters the nebulous world of psychotronics and attributes the bizarre (recorded) behaviour of US presidents Nixon and Carter to psychic tampering by the Soviets. Who is the glib reader to disagree? Mills crosses sci-fi with satanism in an entertaining stew that has the biggest MacGuffin of all — Operation Spectrum, a hitherto unsuspected Soviet occult weapons system. A US scientist stalks through a brightly written, steady plot that takes him into the heart and loins of the Soviet beast. *Beta +.*

### THRILLERS

interspersed with bouts of desperate sex, indication of the copper's existential unease. Author Curtis has signed on with the serious school, and, if anything, is over-stylish in pursuit of his point, contriving to be both voluble and laconic at the same time. Plenty of high wild cards are played early, but the initial pleasing randomness gives way to conventional intrigue, and an inscrutable conspiracy that fails to generate sufficient paranoia. The copper's real vocation is in wrestling with his demons in solitary rooms; he grows tiresome, taking pot shots at his quarry on Dartmoor, by when it is clear that the real victim in all this is his long-suffering wife. *Beta +.*

### Chris Petit

**THE POWER**  
By James Mills  
Headline, £14.95

■ A German Requiem (*Viking, £13.99*), the third of Philip Kerr's ambitious Nazi Germany private eye stories, moves Bernie Gunther forward from Thirties Berlin to Vienna 1947, just prior to the filming of *The Third Man*, a knowing reference in a book marked by thorough research. Bernie's war record suggests as much: Kerr has him posted to the obscure, but actual, Wehrmacht War Crimes Bureau. Evocation of place is Kerr's other strength — the rubble of postwar Berlin, and the international black-market maze of Vienna, which acts as a backdrop for the realignment of Allied and Nazi interests, thrown into unceremonious alliance in the face of Soviet aggression. Both cities are artfully recreated. The plot matches Greene for intelligence, so what is finally missing? Harry Lime, perhaps. *Beta +.*

■ Flawed London copper investigating a spate of serial killings by a sniper takes a trip into his own dark interior in Jack Curran's *Sins On The Morning* (Bantam, £13.99). A manhunt across barren urban and country landscapes is

overtaken by next month's news headlines — and chunks in a dash of green. Ruthless eco-vigilantes, secret religious societies, human sacrifice, and an overuse of exclamation marks contribute to a piece of brisk tosh by a former professor of American literature. *Beta +.*

■ Thomas Gifford spent nine years researching *The Assassins* (Bantam, £13.99). The effort shows in 600 research-heavy pages; plot and character struggle. Most enjoyment is to be had from Gifford's Vatican, given over to power plays of such brutal refinement that they make most secular intrigues seem unworthy. Plot revives that old chestnut of church collusion with the Nazis, and leads via much globe-trotting and blood-letting, to the realisation that there still exists within the church a secret society of assassins playing out its hand around a dying Pope. Ex-Jesuit lawyer — with guilt on overdrive — and radical nun investigating male for a chaotic pairing. *Beta.*

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## The post-feminist blues

Victoria Glendinning on the trials of being washed up in middle age with no love and nothing to do

Jane Gardam's new novel is all told in letters. It begins brilliantly, with a series of short notes to Joan from her self-righteous neighbour Eliza: "I think you ought to try to forget about your leg. I believe that it is something psychosomatic, and it is very hard on Charles... Do make a big try. Won't you? Life is a wonderful thing, Joan. I have discovered this great fact in my work with the Dying."

**THE QUEEN OF THE TAMBOURINE**  
By Jane Gardam  
Sinclair-Stevenson, £13.95

Eliza's smug letters about her work with the Dying, and Joan's alleged malingering and personal inadequacies, are very funny. The setting is plausibly prosperous Rathbone Road, in Putney. Eliza is married to Henry, a retired diplomat. The unsatisfactory Joan is married to Charles, a senior civil servant. The reader murmurs "Social comedy!" with mild anticipation.

But it's not quite like that. Joan disappears to foreign parts, abandoning her husband and children. Eliza's letters follow her, getting longer, and less like letters than confessional journal entries. Eliza is not complacent. She is terrified. Her husband leaves her — because, they tell her, she talked too much at dinner parties about "things outside her sphere", such as politics, embarrassing him. It transpires that her work with the Dying is only a matter of loading the dishwasher at the hospice. Eliza acknowledges she is shallow, bossy, unstable: "My mind has no abiding place."

The novel is a meditation on the suffering of rich, educated, middle-class women who have been dutiful wives or mothers, and are washed up in middle-age with no love and not enough to do. Eliza's increasingly disturbed letters introduce us in episodic fashion to other wives on the road — rather too many of them to keep track of. Each has her way of managing. The younger

ones find hectic meaning to their lives in raising their families — a meaning that does not last, since the children go away and cease to care. The most successful survivors form a tribe, with glossy clothes, gleaming houses, serious interests and complex social lives. Their ageing husbands are either dim supportive figures or absent, having it off with younger women.

Women who survive, says the wise woman of the tribe, do so better than men because "our physical lives are so dramatic". Eliza's sorrow is that there has been no physical drama. She is childless, unused. Her way of managing, it becomes apparent, is to go mad. Just how mad she is only apparent in the double twist of the ending.

She is redeemed by her loving friendship with a young man dying of Aids in the hospice, and by a more bullish attitude to marriage: "We were On-bridge-trained peish girls and I was a very good one. And I was worth something better." Joan's disappearance now seems "a brave defection". But Eliza may go on being mad. She says in her last letter, "Some survive and some do not."

Jane Gardam can't write a bad book. Her vignettes of the women of Rathbone Road and their lives are astute, funny and touching. She invents (I hope he's invented) a really foul doctor: "Memo-pause going all right? Everything drying up nicely?" There is a reined-in feminism here, and a dig at the more assertive kind: a young husband rushing off to hospital to witness the birth of his child says of his



Jane Gardam with a bready social comedy and tragedy about the way women live now

wife, "She's pretty feminist you know — she doesn't believe in doing things by herself."

Yet you're left with a muddy, unsatisfied feeling. This is partly because Eliza the letter-writer, whose visions and fantasies deceive both herself and the reader, seems in more than one sense immaterial. And there seems little reason to expend sympathy on these expensive

women. Sure, a woman can be as unloving and miserable in a detached desecration as a slum, and everyone has a void within that must be filled. Maybe Gardam's pleasure in the social comedy inhibits her from making the pain too real. The muddy feeling comes from an uncertainty of tone. She approaches and veers away from the one potentially horrific incident that would

have made her story black and solid, instead of mauve-grey. Eliza declares she could never write a book: "There are dozens of novels spewed forth, most of them tripe and all the poor authors thinking they've started out on an immortal career." *The Queen of the Tambourine* is not tripe. But Eliza's self-doubt has infected her creator, or reflects some passing loss of nerve.

## We'll go once more a roving, George

ON A dark summer night in 1938, some members of the Byron Society took hammer and chisel and opened the family vaults in Hucknall Tor, Nottinghamshire, removing the body of Byron, where it had lain embalmed since his death in 1824. The corpse was weighed and measured, a lock of hair sheared off, the club foot examined. So far so true, until the names and professions of the plundering admirers are revealed — Link, a Nottingham dentist; Cohn, a shopkeeper; Eric Watson, philosopher; Hazell, Byronicist — and fiction starts to dictate the facts.

In *Byron: A Novel* Mrs Combs uses the 1930s setting to assemble a series of tableaux of Byron biography, confirming that figure's enduring enigma. To mark the 150th anniversary of his birth, each member of the Byron Society presents to the others his own interpretation of part of the poet's life — the incestuous relationship with his half-sister Augusta; the scandal raised by his wife, Annabella Milbanke; his travels; his summer with the Shelleys; his death.

Contrary to expectations, the contrivance works well. Inevitably when fitting be-



Deborah Moggach on screen

tween two periods of history, one emerges with more conviction. If Byron had never lived, his myth merely the stuff of someone's imagination, his story would be hard to credit — all that sodomy and incest, brilliant poetry and whimsical womanising, the strange physique coupled with those brooding good looks. But here, swivelling from a fictional (and unappealing) 1930s to the well-documented early 1800s, it is Byron's times which validate the superplot.

Napoleon has haemorrhoids, and Byron emerges — like most biographical Hollywood heroes — an unstatesque 5ft 6in, but it is not by

means of demeaning personal detail that the legend breathes life. Rather, it is the imagination with which Mrs Combs presents Byron, frustrated by composition, throwing an inkwell out of the window and staining a statue on the terrace below. Cutured with colour and history from several countries, this long, intensely written Euro-novel (translated from the Swedish) needs time, and an acquaintance with the life and works to be truly enjoyable.

In *The Stand-In* Deborah Moggach develops an ingenious, prince and pauper theme for a novel about jealousy and obsession. Her leading lady is Jules, a still

hopeful actress, who lives by doing voice-overs and school workshops and lives for the unlikely Trv. By chance she's offered a job as stand-in for Lila Dune, a blonde American movie star famed for her huge blue eyes, kiss-me mouth and dizzy mind. A stand-in is used to prepare the technical and lighting movements on a film set, and must therefore be of near-identical height, build and colouring as the star. It is this gap, this state of Jules being so near yet so far from Lila's celebrity, that Moggach chillingly exploits.

Jules scripts for herself a sad plot of slander, betrayal and murder — and for the reader an unexpected psychological thriller. One reads for the story, rather than for any felicity of expression. In fact, one reads for the film version: the characters are largely unappealing, often close to caricature, their lines requiring subtle delivery. But the difference between life in Britain and in America, between life on a film set and in real life is well handled.

The idea behind Andrew Sinclair's projected "Empire Quarters", of which *The Far Corners of the Earth* is the first part, is also appealing. Making fiction of family his-

tory, he traces the clan Sinclair from their clearance from the Highlands in the 19th century to their dispersal to the Himalayan glens of India and the new Scotland — Nova Scotia — of Canada. Like other crofters forced to make way for sheep and deer, Hamish, Hannah and their seven children flee to the seashore to work on the kelp. Two sons join Highland regiments and fight in the Crimea and the Indian mutiny. One daughter works in a duchess's household; the rest of the family is shipwrecked on the voyage to Canada; the survivors struggle in the new-found land.

The danger of projected sagas is that the scheme wins over the human interest. This story is simultaneously abbreviated and action-packed, laden with welcome facial detail and Gaelic vocabulary. On two occasions, a Sinclair meets and marries someone within two pages. One can almost sense the author's anxiety in accounting for another member putting down roots, as he adds another branch to his family tree. His scope is so far-ranging, with much emotion to draw upon, that one wishes that he had been more indulgent.

## Private eyes change sex

### PAPERBACKS

Lisanne Radice

**BURN MARKS**

By Sara Paretsky  
Virago, £4.99

**DUPE**

By Liza Cody  
Arrow, £3.99

**BAD COMPANY**

By Liza Cody  
Arrow, £3.99

THE private eye novel which came into its own in the Twenties and Thirties was very much a product of American culture. This saw the lone hero waging a war against the forces of evil, a white knight bearing the standard of truth and justice in a sleazy world of police and political corruption, of dishonest time-servers endlessly on the make, and of grasping petty officialdom. In the last ten years a new twist has been added. The private eye has become female.

Sara Paretsky is the Raymond Chandler of the female private eye novel. Her heroine, V.I. Warshawski, battles her way through Chicago's threatening streets fighting the greed, murder and corruption which she daily encounters. At once compassionate and ruthless, V.I. pursues to the end single-handed campaigns against those who would casually ruin her beloved city for their own ugly ambitions.

Sara Marks is Paretsky's best novel to date, not only because the plot is beautifully contrived, the dialogue gritty and funny (though occasionally lapsing towards the sentimental) but also because the reader is enmeshed in a richly devised morality tale, where the little people pit themselves against apparently all-powerful enemies whom they defeat, but as this is the late 20th century, only just, and then not completely. The setting is the construction industry, where huge profits can be made so long as nothing is allowed to stand in the way. V.I.'s steady and importunate Aunt Elena, burnt out of her cheap hotel, turns up in a tearfully alcoholic state on her doorstep. This unwelcome visitation precipitates V.I.'s reluctant involvement in a world where seemingly honest politicians make shady deals and corrupt developers buy them for their own ends. Gripping.



Liza Cody on the trail

Liza Cody, with her private eye Anna Lee, has been called the Sara Paretsky of British crime. There is, however, a difference of approach and style. Even though Anna Lee works on her own, she is part of an organisation and has to take orders from her mean-spirited boss. At the same time, Cody's world is less violent, less dramatic, even less overtly corrupt — perhaps reflecting the Englishness of the setting. In *Dupe*, her first crime novel, Anna Lee sets out to discover the truth behind the death of a lonely, secretive girl who turns out to be different from what others around her had imagined. In *Bad Company* Anna finds herself mistakenly kidnapped by an unknown mob, and it is her colleagues who race to rescue her. Her plots are less complex. But Cody has Paretsky's kind of sharp sense of humour, and the same ability to present the intricate face of her own city, London.

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## Wild Sendakiana year

1991, says The Bodley Head, is to be "the year of Maurice Sendak". They do not have a reason for this, unless it be to celebrate the 28th anniversary of his most famous book, *Where the Wild Things Are*, and the whole exercise is probably prompted by the current shake-outs, cut-backs and retrenchments in the publishing industry. What better in times of dearth than to re-promote your bestsellers?

Mr Sendak is being revived for us in two stages. This April sees the reprinting of *Wild Things* and its eccentric successor *In the Night Kitchen*, together with three picture books that were based on other people's texts: *The Moon Jumpers* by Janice May Udry (£7.99), *Mr Rabbit and the Lovely Present* by Charlotte Zolotow (£5.95) and that wonderfully beautiful dramatisation of two very short nursery rhymes, *Hecate Protector* and *As I Went Over the Water* (£7.99). Later in the year five more books will be reissued, including that early, self-assured masterpiece *The Signs on Rosie's Door*, and that late self-indulgent puzzle *Outside Over There*.

Quite enough has been said, and even more about these books which Sendak has written and illustrated himself. The extensive merchandising of *Wild Things* is making

them tamer and tamer every day. But celebrations are certainly in order for some of the most famous books that are now being brought back into print, even though they have become a trifle faded, as though the effort required for a "Maurice Sendak year" has given the ink anæmia. *Primus Inter pares* (and perhaps *primus* of the whole shooting-matched) is surely *Mr Rabbit and the Lovely Present*, that brief encounter between a little girl seeking a birthday present for her mama and a strange androgynous rabbit, who takes her on a now somewhat bleached colour-journey among fruits, flowers and other suitable gifts.

This remains one of Sendak's most perfectly judged pieces of colour illustration, his "homage to Winslow Homer" — an idyll that contrasts sharply with the graphic wit of *Hecate Protector*, which was his "homage to Randolph Caldecott". Both books are wonderfully rewarding for anyone who likes reading, channing, or just looking with children, and I am only sorry that more has not been made of their companion

ion, *The Moon Jumpers*, which is one of Sendak's most intriguing experiments.

Janice May Udry's text has been exactly described by an American critic as "lyrical blather" — a last-day Echoing *Green* with children baying at the moon. But Sendak's response to this, way back in 1959, was to illustrate Udry's words with simple monochrome washes, and to intersperse the page-openings with scenes in subdued colour that were almost magical in their evocation of the children's ecstasy in the moonlit garden.

Justice, alas, has not been done to this haunting book. Some pictures now appear to be bathed in sunshine rather than moonlight, and, what is worse, the monochrome illustrations have been edited out, save for a plant or two and an old frog. Retrenchment would here seem to have taken place with a vengeance, but even in this state *The Moon Jumpers*, alongside its companion volumes, shows how Sendak outdoes at all points the mundane level of achievement of so many of his contemporaries. What we want now, if you please Bodley Head, is *The Bee-man of Orn* and *The Griffin and the Minor Canon* — and why not publish the first ever English edition of *Schoolmaster Whackwell's Wonderful Sons*?

150-160



CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

# Yet there is method in it

Geoff Brown on  
Mel Gibson in  
*Hamlet, Freedom  
is Paradise, War  
Party* and (below)  
*Riff-Raff*

So how does *Mad Max* cope with the Mad Dane? An A for effort, at least. In preparation for Franco Zeffirelli's *Hamlet* (U, Odeon Haymarket), Mel Gibson's Australian vowels were ruthlessly massaged by a voice trainer; now he enunciates with the unreal clarity of a speaking clock. Still, you can always grasp the man's meaning: he shapes and projects Shakespeare's verse (or what remains after Zeffirelli's scissors have cut their swath) with consistent intelligence.

The contours of Gibson's pin-up face are deliberately smudged by a beard, moustache, and close-cropped hair, though the blue eyes flash their usual magic. He mounts the soliloquies without fear, and, barring a tendency to rant and roll his eyes when excited, acquits himself well. His swordplay dances with force and wit. He is grave, anguished, tender, playful: all the things *Hamlet* should be. Yet, though Mel Gibson is never for one moment bad, almost everybody else in the cast is better. And for all his effort he never gets under this *Hamlet*'s skin; he remains Mel, Prince of Hollywood, embarked on a worthy exercise.

As with his *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Taming of the Shrew* films in the Sixties, Zeffirelli's mission is to bring the Bard — kicking and screaming if need be — before young, untutored audiences. Gibson is certainly the star to pull them in; and for those with brief attention spans, the script, prepared by Zeffirelli and Christopher De Vore, forges constant short-cuts to Shakespeare's highlights. There is no Fortinbras, no opening battle scene, no words of advice to the players: everything is over within two hours and 15 minutes.

Only the dustiest academic would rage over the lacunae: the director's task was to deliver a dynamic film, not a sacred relic. If anything, Zeffirelli is too timid. Oertrude's sexual temperature is raised to suit the spiky Glenn Close (note the impassioned



Also poor Shakespeare? Mel Gibson, in the title role of Franco Zeffirelli's film of *Hamlet*, faces face with the skull of his old friend, Yorick

grapplings in the closet scene; otherwise, the interpretations are tried and true. Here is Claudius, the pleasure-seeking King (Alan Bates); here is portering, crafty Polonius (Ian Holm, portering a mite too much); here is Ophelia (Helen Bonham Carter), sweetly waiting one minute, hollow-eyed with lunacy the next. Best of all, here is the Ghost: Paul Scofield invests the role with a depth of despair that takes the film, however briefly, way beyond the dull realm of camp.

Visually, *Hamlet* offers another mixed bag. For exterior shots, Zeffirelli draws on three British castles, melded together, as photographed by David Watkin, the setting easily looks cold and imposing enough to be Elsinore. Once characters step through the giant doors, they emerge into Shepperton Studios. Individual design details please:

*Hamlet* delivers his "fish-monger" taunts perched on a library shelf, forcing Polonius to mount a ladder, which Hamlet impishly pushes away. But too often sets appear over-dressed, with ugly items that obstinately resemble cheap stage props. By filming *Hamlet*, Zeffirelli and Mel Gibson are treading in famous footsteps: Olivier's

and, in silent days, Sir Johnstone Forbes-Robertson's and Sarah Bernhardt's (in 1900). Ninety-one years later, Mel Gibson's *Hamlet* appears decent, slick, easily digestible: a fast-food *Hamlet* for the moment, without the stature to make it a *Hamlet* for the ages.

Characters in the powerful means, and a few small kindnesses. The writer-director Sergei Bodrov, born in Khabarovsk, in the Soviet Union's far eastern corner, never knew his own father until he was 30; he makes the meeting between questing son and long-lost father the emotional high-point. Elsewhere, Bodrov

paints a bleak portrait of Gorbachev's Soviet Union (the film was made in 1989): drab lives, class divisions, constant subservience to the state police.

At first the narrative is compressed too tightly (the film lasts 75 minutes) but once Bodrov's hero begins his trek north the scenes expand, the images bloom, and the desolate story of an orphan at large in a loveless world grips the audience by the throat. For those worried about value for money, *Freedom is Paradise* is supported by Irene Jouanet's *Finale*, a precious, 14-minute French short inspired by an incident in Nijinsky's long mental decline.

Shot in 1987, released in America in 1989, Franc Roddam's *War Party* (18, Cannon Haymarket) has taken its time. The film emerges after *Dances With Wolves* pushed Native Americans and their plight high up in the public consciousness. *War Party* — no preening epic this, but

watchable screen fodder — offers a contemporary variation. During a re-enacted battle between Indians and cavalry, staged to boost a depressed Montana town, a hot-headed white settles an old score by shooting an Indian youth dead. This launches a spiral of violence and racist attacks; with blood on their hands, the dead Indian's pale head for the hills and rediscover their ethnic identity.

*War Party* makes a stab at grappling with Indian culture, and gathers authentic Native Americans to support brat-packers Billy Wirth and Kevin Dillon. Yet this is basically a pursuit movie in disguise: the hero, a posse sets out, a helicopter is brought down (with bow and arrow), an Indian is scalped, and so it goes on.

It is staged with little of the fire Roddam brought to *Quadruphonia* in 1979. But that — the director's first feature — was meant to shake the earth; this, pretensions aside, is just meant to pass the time.

LONDON CONCERTS

## Fully persuaded without reason

In the disconcerting event that I find myself on a desert island with nothing but a gramophone and a few choice musical moments for company, I shall certainly hope that the cymbal clash of Bruckner's Seventh Symphony is among them. Not the entire gargantuan symphony: life is short, even on a desert island. Just that cymbal clash, the tinkle from the triangle player that accompanies it, and the glorious Adagio that surrounds it.

Why? Because it is irrational, extravagant, arguably unnecessary — and utterly heart-warming. So it would serve to remind me of what the art I left behind is all about.

There is no rationality in making two skilled musicians sit motionless for 80 minutes in order to play one note each. Especially the triangle player: the cymbal wielder can at least flash out his performance with a few extrovert twirls of wrists and forearms. It certainly is not economical. An accountant would chop them, particularly if he knew what some scholars believe: that Bruckner never actually approved this cymbal clash. Most accountants do not know this, thank goodness: they already have enough say in running the music business.

Conductors, who do know, realise that this great movement — which rises on waves of noble sequences from tragedy to something approaching transcendental triumph — demands, at its peak, the sheer physicality of metal clashing metal. Man cannot live by strings and woodwind alone. This is music's equivalent of a scoring footballer's exultant punch in the air.

In the Festival Hall on Monday that moment, and what followed, certainly spoke in heroic terms. Bernard Haitink's marvellous interpretation, which managed to combine a sense of spaciousness and long-term purpose with moments of high drama, was the more remarkable for being achieved with an orchestra, the Dresden Staatskapelle, that hardly dazzled with technique. The wind sections were not especially well blended: the strings beefy but only intermittently shimmering.

Indeed, the solid performance of Mozart's "Hafner" Symphony that preceded the Bruckner had raised forebodings. But then Haitink seemed to grip the performers in the fist made by his own vision and intense concentra-

tion, as so often happens when he is unshackled from Covent Garden and allowed to roam the epic symphonic fields that are his natural terrain. The way in which his subtle speed variations and mature, non-sensational approach benefit the flow of Bruckner's vast paragraphs is easy to fathom. But how this seemingly placid Dutchman, exuding reason and moderation, can suddenly inject such searing anger into, of all things, a lugubrious passage for Wagner tubas that is a wonderful mystery, and long may it continue to be so.

On the following night this unofficial celebration of Austro-Germanic heavyweights continued with an orchestra on much classier form: the London Philharmonic, responding superbly to the sophisticated demands of Christoph von Dohnányi. This was a courageous programme: to open a Festival Hall concert with the sparse cries and whispers of Webern's ten-minute Symphony, Op. 21, is — in audience-stirring terms — like attempting to set fire to damp leaves.

But the orchestra overcame an initial tentativeness (no



Bernard Haitink: man of mature musical mystery

music exposes individual players so cruelly) and later produced a vividly characterised, immaculately precise account of Schoenberg's Five Orchestral Pieces. Emanuel Ax guided elegantly through Beethoven's Second Piano Concerto, and the concert ended with a muscular, highly organised account of Schumann's Fourth Symphony, lacking only the occasional poetic reverie. Dohnányi is a ferociously intelligent conductor but not, one suspects, a dreamer.

RICHARD MORRISON

REVIEWS PAGE 22  
New Opera  
productions

He is all the things *Hamlet* should be. Gibson is never bad, but almost everybody else in the cast is better...

## Salty talk peppers the rough trade

For anyone dismayed by the aridity of Ken Loach's last two films, *Riff-Raff* — receiving its premiere run at the National Film Theatre over the next 12 days — will seem the answer to a Maiden's Prayer, writes Geoff Brown.

Where *Fatherland* and *Hidden Agenda* bogged themselves down in schematic scripts, *Riff-Raff*, made on the lowliest of budgets (see David Robinson's interview with Loach, below), jangles with prickly reality. The camera adopts a "fly on the wall" stance, eavesdropping on a London building-site crew.

In place of dour tub-thumping, there is

that rare Loach ingredient, comedy: one scene, where a burly souce is caught short using the show-flat lavatory, could have strayed from the *Carry On* stable. The torrent of cross-talk never smacks of the typewriter, nor the blue pencil: this is not the film for those who like to put dillies on life.

Loach's militancy remains. The opening shot thrusts before us a crumpled NHS prescription leaflet and a scurrying rat: the labourers, drawn to London from across the country in the hunt for jobs, are converting a disused hospital into luxury flats which they could never

afford themselves. Many have no homes at all: they are squatters. Yet the late Bill Jesse's salty script roots the political anger in direct observation. The plot's main thread features a quiet Glaswegian fresh from prison who joins the gang and attempts a relationship with a would-be singer. Carlyle's accent could get southern audiences screaming for subtitles. But it is a price worth paying for the raw authenticity of this funny, abrasive front-line report from the bottom of society's ladder. In May, *Riff-Raff* represents Britain in the Cannes Film Festival's "Director's Fortnight" slot.

## Bawdy eye on a building site

Ken Loach tells David Robinson about the singular scriptwriter of his latest film



Robert Carlyle playing the Glaswegian ex-convict Stevie in *Riff-Raff*, scripted by the late Bill Jesse

ous about his appearance — trousers pressed, quite dapper, even though he was hard up." After a particularly horrendous encounter with rats on a building site in Marylebone High Street, Jesse could take no more and wrote to Loach, asking him to get him out of it. David Putnam, who was then heading production at Columbia, was easily persuaded to

commission a script which became *Riff-Raff*.

"Within a week he produced a script — without any structure, of course. We would take out a few sequences and use them, and then he would go off and write some more. That is how the script was built up.

"After David left Columbia, Channel 4 picked up the

project. The budget was small: we shot the film in five weeks, on 16mm. Working on a small budget concentrates the mind. When you know you have to get a couple of long sequences in by the end of the day you don't get too preoccupied with things that really are not important. You get an energy going.

"Bill was on the set all the time, and then sat through the editing. He enjoyed it. Writers can be a nuisance when it comes to the actual filming, but he was easy to have around. He laughed at everybody else's jokes, and was always delighted if somebody contributed some bit of improvisation to the script. Most of the actors had had similar working experience in manual jobs.

"We had already edited the film and were working on the dubbing when Bill Jesse died. It was quite mysterious. He was simply found dead in his flat. He was only 48."

Loach continues: "His view was comic but very savage. Unfortunately Jesse wrote about people who are not very fashionable, working people. Someone with a similar talent who decided to depict the young and rich would be taken up at once.

"In *Riff-Raff*, though, we set out to do something about work and about what workers call 'the crack' — the humour and repartee that keep them going, however awful the conditions and the oppressive hierarchies of building sites. It is a release — an affirmation of company and comradeship and support against the common enemy.

"People are generally seen to much greater advantage at work than in the bosom of their family. Bill appreciated that."

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# Small step, giant leap

Bernard Levin

Our Science Editor has been discussing methods of sending a manned space-ship to Mars. The chief problem has hitherto been the length of the journey, but now an American scientist has worked out a technique which, he says, would cut the travel time from 500 days to 150. (That, I may say, was roughly what the British Rail promised for the Advanced Passenger Train.) The technicalities are beyond me, but that does not matter, because I think it unlikely that the people in charge will ask me to drive, ladies and gentlemen, we are all going to Mars. I am looking forward to it.

"By heaven, it were an easy leap To pluck bright honour from the pale-faced moon": how much more daring will it be when men stand upon Mars himself, and when they go, leave behind, I trust, words as simple and moving as the plaque left by the lunar astronauts: "We came in peace for all mankind." It was inevitable that when the moon was conquered the conquerors would turn their attention to the next nearest heavenly body.

It is not altogether clear to me why Mars is the epitome of war, his name, in different forms, goes back long before the Romans — not just to the Greeks, to whom he was Ares (their war-god), but Babylonians. Were there, five millennia ago, eyes so sharp that they could see the colour of Mars and think it the colour of blood?

The fascination with Mars, at least in modern times, is much greater than the homage paid to Jupiter, or (shame!) even Venus, despite her braided hair, but I do not think that is because we are so in love with war; surely it is the tantalising wonder induced by the experts' inability to rule out the possibility of recognisable life on the mysterious planet. There is some tenuous evidence for instance the mysterious "canals" that some astronomers claim are man-made (or rather Green-Tinted-made), and the extraordinary coincidence (if indeed it is one) that has given Mars a day almost exactly the same as Earth's.

The orbit of Mars is scandalously irregular; the nearest it gets to Earth is 35 million miles, the furthest is seven times as much. It was that astonishing man Kepler who in 1609 worked out the orbit of Mars and in doing so polished off Ptolemy for good. (Mind you, that even more astonishing man Galileo the very next year spotted the fact that Mars is not precisely round.) Mars is much smaller than Earth, and its weight, according to the experts, is only one tenth that of our planet ("How hath measured the ground"?). He has two faithful followers — satellites in the official word — called Deimos and Phobos; from the latter we get the word phobia.

Early observation noticed the phenomenon of what are known as the polar caps (it is not clear that what we see is snow or ice) which wax and wane with remarkable frequency, though the experts insist that the four seasons on Mars are all of much the same length. The Mariner space-probes encouraged further speculation, although the only effect of the photographs they transmitted was to split the many fiercely-held theories into even more theories, no less fiercely held. It is agreed that there are volcanoes on Mars, not necessarily extinct.

The worship of Mars by the Romans was no mere formality;

altars, shrines and temples were dedicated to him. He watched over the sacred spears, and the priest of his cult had to interpret the fall of the spears; if they moved before he was called to arms, it was a sinister omen. (I take it I do not have to tell you where we get sinister from?) His emblem was a wolf, presumably chosen as the fiercest animal, thus fitting the god of war. He is also supposed to have been the father of Romulus, who founded Rome.

Mars was elevated to the highest plane of deity by Augustus, though I seem to remember that Augustus was by no means reluctant to establish himself as an object of worship. (Does anybody know why Mars Bars are so called?)

The best thing I know about the idea of sending men to Mars is that the project has no possible use. There was some suggestion, during the decade-long countdown of the Apollo project ("God of the golden bow, and of the golden lyre, and of the golden hair, and of the golden fire...") that it would give the West a powerful weapon; presumably throwing nuclear hardware from outer space would be more effective. But such talk faded away, and apart from considerations of prestige (not to be sneezed at in our prestige-loving era) it fulfilled only the famous answer to the famous question: Because it was there.

All the more so will be the fight to Mars, though while the project is going on somebody is sure to claim that there could be useful elements in the Martian soil, so we can profitably mine uranium from it, or diamonds, or even coal, which at least would be one in the eye for Arthur Scargill. But in truth, as anyone with imagination



will realise, the project has no purpose other than to demonstrate the astounding visions that mankind is capable of summoning up. Of course we yearn to find a race of little green men on Mars, with a civilisation far beyond ours, but we may leave that kind of longing to science-fiction; the thought that induces the catch in the breath is simply that one day, men will stand on the red planet.

What would Archimedes say? Or Galileo? Housman says:

Here are the skies, the planets  
And all the starry train:  
Content you with the mimic  
heaven,  
And on the earth remain.

But that will not do for most of us; on wings of imagination, we already think ourselves on Mars. And what are we thinking there, as we survey the universe from that uncanny vantage-point? Depend upon it, we are wondering how long it will be till we stand on Jupiter himself.

## Is Operation Safe Haven more than a face-saver for the West? Two Times writers assess the daunting military challenge and the grim outlook facing the refugees

# Succour the Kurds but don't get sucked in

President Bush's decision to send troops to set up refugee camps inside Iraq creates dangers potentially as great as those of the Gulf war itself. Iraq has already denounced the plan as unwarranted interference in its internal affairs. Allied military commanders will need precise instructions to guide them through a confusing situation.

Washington and its supporters in the relief work cannot be seen to bow to Saddam's objections, but must be clear on what is involved. At the very least the relief forces will have to be armed for self-defence; possibly allied air forces may have to be used to prevent Iraqi military intervention.

At all costs we must avoid any military involvement in Iraq's civil war, one-sided though it is. Our activities must be confined first to protecting our servicemen engaged in the operations and second to protecting the Kurds — in that order. Precise limitations for the relief operation and clear rules of engagement should any confrontation result will be essential.

However, the force will benefit greatly from United Nations endorsement and would be helped further if the Arab allies of the Gulf coalition could be induced to offer even token help.

At present about 8,000 American troops are in Turkey supporting relief efforts; between 5,000 and 10,000 are expected to move into northern Iraq to set up refugee camps. A vital role in that difficult terrain is being played by helicopters, including Chinooks of the Royal Air Force. Three are already in the area and six more are due tomorrow.

The operation can be divided into four parts. The first stage, only now getting under way, must be to deliver the food, tents and

medical help to enable the refugees at least to move back into Iraq. A second stage, now in preparation, will be to arrange reception areas above the 36th parallel. The third step will be to persuade the Kurds to return to their own homes. Lastly, substantial help will be needed in many areas to rebuild the Kurdish villages that have been destroyed.

Taken together, these aid operations call for a lengthy commitment of military transport aircraft and helicopters, both within the border area and into the airfields of northern Iraq. They will also demand the skills, the ingenuity and some of the equipment of army field engineers, and we can expect these professionals to form

a substantial part of the British contribution.

It will not be an easy task. Simply controlling the leaderless numbers involved is daunting enough. Roads must be cleared after the winter rains, camps have to be set up and controlled, and the whole effort must be coordinated. The task will be made easier by the existence of good military communications, by the speed with which helicopters in particular can react to a flight order, even in the mountains, and not least by the weather. The often freezing temperatures of winter rise to an average of 80°F in Mosul in June. More than 120° has been recorded in July and August.

Looking beyond the immediate

difficulties, there is still the problem of the Kurdish refugees on the Iranian border, below the 36th parallel. At least the border seems to be open, but eventually the question of resettling these populations will also need to be addressed. Further still into the future there are two concerns. The first is that the temporary line along the 36th parallel might take on the kind of permanence associated with the 38th parallel in Korea. The second concern, though the issue is entangled with that of genocide, is what might be construed as interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state. The precedent could be a source of future embarrassment for the UN as a whole, or for some of its members in particular. But that cannot be predicted any more than the present human disaster could be predicted, and the important thing right now is action.

Michael Armitage

Sir Michael is a former Commandant of the Royal College of Defence Studies.

Conor Cruise O'Brien

# We can only grieve and hope

Saddam Hussein has won the war in Iraq, with the acquiescence of the allies. There will be time later for general reflections on that bitter truth. What is urgent now is to save as many as can still be saved from among the peoples of Iraq who were encouraged by the allies to rise up against Saddam, and who are consequently in mortal danger.

John Major deserves some credit for his unexpected success in persuading President Bush to accept a limited version of his plan for safe havens. The Kurdish refugees will now be able to come down from those ghastly mountains to somewhat more tolerable conditions. But they have no future in the kind of haven at present on offer, except as refugees. Those who are now children might reach old age in refugee camps.

Having decided to leave Saddam in control of Iraq, the allies will have to encourage the refugees to return to their towns and villages and accept the bitter reality of his rule. The kind of haven Mr Major originally proposed would have allowed the refugees to return to their homes under allied protection, but Mr Bush has agreed only to havens for refugees: that is, to security in misery and stagnation.

Had he remained in power, Mrs Thatcher might have been able to persuade Mr Bush to accept the original plan for havens with a future. More probably, she could have averted the premature cessation of hostilities that left Saddam in power in Baghdad. But might-have-beens are no help now.

The allies are not yet altogether powerless in Iraq, although their power wanes with every day that passes. Economic leverage remains. Therefore it is in Saddam's interest to appear to be magnanimous, and no doubt he will do his best to appear so. That means allowing the Kurds to return to their homes, and making it look as though they had no real reason to leave them in the first place. The allies — because of their past decisions — have no alternative but to go along with this in a general way, but our economic leverage makes it possible for us to set certain conditions.

Saddam will readily accept the



Cold, ill and hungry: as death stalks the refugee camps, a couple strive to save their child

presence of humanitarian agencies under the auspices of the United Nations and the Red Cross. But that is not enough. It is paradoxical but true that it is in the nature of humanitarian agencies to turn a blind eye to atrocities. In order to get on with helping most of the people, they are prepared to forget what is happening to some of the people. They may protest — or rather "express concern" — in private, but in public they will draw a veil over any unpleasantness that is going on. They need, after all, the cooperation of the authorities on the spot in order to do their work.

So access for the humanitarian agencies is not enough. The allies

should use their economic leverage to ensure that the international media also have full access to the areas in northern and southern Iraq where the humanitarian aid is most needed.

This seems to be about the best — and a sorry best it is — that can now be done. Out of sight of the media, Saddam will still wreak his vengeance on as many of his enemies as he can catch. Kurdish leaders have promised to keep up the guerrilla war. In crushing the guerrillas, Saddam will engage in collective reprisals as before. The media can keep an eye on the main towns, but they will not reach most of the villages, and much of the terror will escape their

scrutiny. Iraq will remain the domain of a tyrant. But that is the way the allies have decided it is to be. Iraqis will have to live with the consequences, as best they can.

So will others. As the allied forces return home, Saddam Hussein stands as a towering figure in the Middle East, and in Mr Bush's new world order he is among the most conspicuous features.

Thirty-five years ago, Nasser was a hero to the Arab world, after surviving military defeat at the hands of the Anglo-French-Israeli coalition; but Nasser's achievement was as nothing as compared with Saddam's. In his day, Nasser had both superpowers on his side. Saddam had both superpowers

against him and survived their wrath. He had, almost literally, the whole world against him, and he remains master of Iraq. It is a wonder if he is a hero figure to millions of Arab youngsters.

Folk memory is selective, in the Arab world as elsewhere. Arabs will choose to forget Saddam's expulsion from Kuwait. They will prefer to think of him as the Arab hero who withstood the awesome onslaught of the coalition armies and the United Nations, and yet remained master of Baghdad and all Iraq.

The Bush administration decided during the war to liberate Kuwait that Saddam should remain one of the most powerful figures in the region, and that is what he will be. It is unlikely that the sanctions, or even the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction, will be rigidly enforced. People who want weapons, and are in control of oil revenues, are likely to get exactly what they want. The same "art of the possible" that led to the assiduous cultivation of Saddam before the invasion of Kuwait and that saved him after its liberation is still operative, and it points towards normalisation of relations with him.

There are limits, however, to the possibilities in that direction. The Arab allies in the war that has just ended have strong reasons to fear a restoration of Iraqi power. And Iraq will not accept preemptively rather than see Saddam's Iraq again acquire weapons of mass destruction. Anyone who believes that Saddam's restoration is compatible with peace and stability in the region will have to think again.

For the moment, however, the most urgent concern is that the allies should not send any further wrong signals to Saddam's unfortunate subjects. The idea of safe havens is a wrong signal for the middle and long term. In order to save what they can from the wreckage of war, the Iraqi people must be clearly told that we are leaving them to the mercy of Saddam Hussein. That is a hard message to spell out, but failure to spell it compounds the damage already done.

...and moreover

## CLEMENT FREUD

About a quarter of the taxis in the metropolis display a notice thanking you for not smoking. From the outside they look just like other taxis, and though it would make good sense for the enlightened drivers not to stop when hailed by citizens in the process of ingesting tobacco, they do. When the passenger enters, sees the notice and asks "Do you mind?" drivers tend to say "I would prefer it if you did not".

I do not smoke, nor have I ever done so; with age my aversion to tobacco has grown acute, and when I hail a taxi and it stops, I ask the driver whether his is of the thank-you-for-not-smoking variety. If it is not, or the man has a cigarette in his hand, or the ashtrays bulge with butts, I apologise for having flagged him down and search for another conveyance. This infuriates the men with green badges, causing some to resort to abusive language, not infrequently involving words like Daum and Bother.

Sadly, smokers have no idea about the way non-smokers tick, many of them feeling that it is only the presence of a lit cigarette that causes offence, whereas what we cannot tolerate is the entire concentration of fumes emanating from smokers. Returning from South America last week (and returning with all my possessions except a plastic nailbrush, which I may have left in a hotel bathroom, though there could be a more sinister explanation), the plane was due for a one-hour stopover in Caracas. It remained on the ground for twice that length of

time, and it is greatly to the airline's credit, though contributing little to its passengers' joy, that when we left the Venezuelan capital, the "house full" boards were up.

On the previous leg, from Aruba, I had placed on the vacant seat next to me my sponge-bag, books, notepad, box of PaperMate 2000 Ultra pens and Saturday's *Miami Herald*, from which I gleaned that Daytona had beaten Atlanta by 17 goals to 16... at soccer. It is as perverse a result as the 2-2 draw at basketball.

When a 20-year-old Venezuelan girl asked the stewardess to escort her to seat 7D I gathered up my effects, put them in my bag, placed it under the seat in front of me and examined my fellow traveller.

She wore sneakers, jeans and a T-shirt bearing a message for which my BBC *Get By In Spanish* tapes had not prepared me. Having sat down, she greeted the man on her right, then turned to me and said "Buenos tardes", to which I knew the answer. She then poured the contents of her handbag into her lap, revealing a comb, a brush, a bottle of pink nail-varnish, keys, wallet, a lighter and two packets of cigarettes. As we taxied along the runway she began combing her hair fiercely (combing hair is a permitted activity on a plane), after which she bit her nails (can't stop anyone doing that in public either) and tapped her heels, as we gathered speed for take-off, she crossed herself.

My eyes were drawn to her cigarettes. There will come a time, I thought to myself, to point out that this is a no-smoking part of the plane: "Now fumare" I would explain. Whether to interrupt hair-brushing, nailbiting or prayer was a question that I should have to think about.

I decided to wait until she was about to light up, considered that to be cruel and when I heard the landing gear retract into the undercarriage, I went into action: "Pardon, señorita," I said from side 3 of *Get By In Spanish*. I had only learnt to ask for a room overlooking the sea, the address of the British consul and whether service was included in the bill, so I mumbled a few words before commencing "Now fumare".

A look of alarm crossed her face. "But you will permit me, señor?" She took the bottle of nailvarnish and spun it in her hand.

"No," I said. The flight from Caracas to Amsterdam takes nine hours and twenty minutes. During the whole of this time the occupant of 7E slept; the one in 7D fidgeted for 20 minutes, then stepped over her somnolent neighbour to stand and smoke in some other part of the aeroplane and returned — whereupon the occupant of seat 7C, the elderly one with the beard, got up to go and find a place to stand and breathe. Travel, it used to be said, broadens the mind. Would that were all.

## Cromwell routs the aesthetes

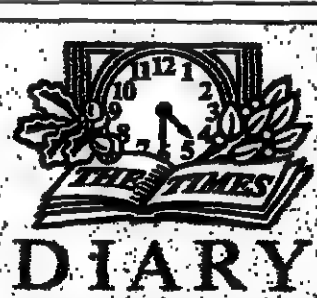
The Badminton Cabinet, which went on show at the Tate yesterday, is only one of many artistic treasures that are likely to be lost to the nation over the coming months. Works of art worth more than £36 million are sitting in limbo while the government decides whether to grant export licences. Most of the art world fears, cannot now be saved.

"The system is the fairest in the world, but there are not enough public funds available," says Sir Hugh Legatt, secretary of Heritage in Danger. "We are in a puritanical era, reminiscent of when Cromwell dispersed Charles I's art collection. Many of Charles's works are now highlights of the Louvre and the Prado."

In addition to the Badminton Cabinet, at £8.6 million the world's most expensive item of furniture, the works now awaiting the recommendation of Tim Renton, the arts minister, to the trade and industry department include the world's most expensive English manuscript and the world's most expensive English painting.

"We do have rather a lot on our hands right now," says Georgina Naylor, director of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, which frequently contributes to the bill for heritage items with its £12 million grant. "But there is an air of defeatism. Museums are not coming forward because they think it's hopeless."

The sellers have a different problem. "Normally buyers from overseas will not pay for the object until the export licence is granted," says Legatt. The Duke of Beaufort, for example, who sold the Badminton Cabinet last summer to Mrs Barbara Johnson, of Johnson and Johnson baby products, has not seen a penny of the £3.6 million, which would now have



accumulated a tidy sum in interest. Other important items in limbo include *The Three Graces* and the *Northumberland Bestiary*, a medieval encyclopaedia of animals sold by the Duke of Northumberland last November for £2.9 million. The sellers of Constable's *The Lock* are also still awaiting a decision on the £10.78 million due from a foreign buyer.

Irishmen are predicting an unhappy start to Peter Brooke's long-awaited inter-party political talks in Ulster, due to start on April 30. The previous day Stormont launches an environmental campaign that will hardly mollify the already suspicious Orangemen. Its title: "Go for green."

## Rolling in it

Old hippies never die, they just become capitalist fat cats. Take, for example, Jerry Hopkins, the Sixties rock 'n' roll hell-raiser who wrote the book on Oliver Stone's new film about Jim Morrison and The Doors is based. Now a financial consultant, he is briefly in London from Honolulu, where he is advising on the development of the nascent Hawaiian stock exchange. "It was when my children asked why I didn't have a real job that I knew it was time to move," says Hopkins, who for many years wrote for *Rolling Stone* magazine. "Now I spend all day talking to bank presidents and stock exchange

chairmen and then go home and write about rock. Neither side knows about the other."

So how does a long-haired rocker become a financial whizz-kid? "On the job, learning. I had no experience." But conversely, says Hopkins, running a stock exchange could be good training for a pop music career. "You can still occasionally dance to it, but these days rock 'n' roll is first and foremost a business." If Jim Morrison were still alive, who knows what corporate boardrooms he would have conquered by now.



## Animals first

The British public has been slower to dip its hand into its pocket for the Kurds than it has for London Zoo, by all accounts. "We are dealing with sackloads of mail every day from individuals donating sums ranging from 10p Sellotape to a card to company pledges for several thousands," says the Zoo, which estimates that more than £1 million has been pledged to date. The aid agencies, on the other hand, give a rough figure of £800,000 for the Kurds.

Diamond Morris, author of *The Naked Ape* and *The Human Zoo*, is not surprised that the animals have greater pulling power. "There is a feeling that human beings are responsible for them-

selves," he says. "Animals are seen as victims of human exploitation. We uprooted the animals and brought them here, and there are no other agencies working on their behalf." To produce a greater response on behalf of the Kurds, a more cynical approach is needed, Morris fears. "Pictures of suffering babies tug hardest at the heart-strings."

Has Marxism really been consigned to the dustbin of history? The latest issue of the British Communist party newspaper, *Changes*, has a small ad for the complete works of Lenin ("offers over £20") while another former hardliner offers the complete works of Stalin for £50. But even as Albania hurls out its old communist tracts, at least one government in waiting is ominously snapping them up. "African National Congress want collections of Marx, Engels and Lenin quickly," reads a third advert on the same page.

## No Nostromo

Sir David Lean's death has almost certainly torpedoed the £23 million film adaptation of the Joseph Conrad novel *Nostromo*. Lean had been planning the film since 1984 and had commissioned scripts from both Christopher Hampton and Robert Bolt, but the leisurely pace at which he had become accustomed to working meant that pre-production preparation had only just started at the Victorian studios in Nice when he was taken ill in January. Without Lean, the American studio TriStar is set to withdraw its backing, and none of the leading British companies is in a position to take on the project.

The film's insurers had insisted that Arthur Penn be hired as standby director in case Sir David was taken ill. But the clause did not become operative until production began, and Lean's untimely death renders it inoperative.

John Major 1990





## PUTTING LIVES FIRST

John Major's call for "safe havens" for Iraq's fleeing Kurds has now been met, however provisionally, by the joint American, British and French decision to provide a military umbrella for relief operations in northern Iraq. To avert disaster, it is right to set legal niceties on one side, provided the allies stress that they have no intention of changing the map of Iraq, or generating false Kurdish hopes that their dreams of autonomy are being realised. To avoid that interpretation will be hard, however often they say they are there to save lives.

The scale of the suffering justifies the risk. The decision is a diplomatic triumph for Mr Major, and a potentially dramatic breakthrough in international cooperation. For the first time in postwar history, the humanitarian relief of a man-made disaster has been given priority over the taboo against intervention within the borders of the state creating the misery. Had Mr Major not launched his plan and refused to take no for an answer in Washington, the wretched Kurds would have been compelled to cross into Turkey and Iran before receiving help on anything like the scale required.

The logistics are formidably complicated. Not only must sites be identified in the Iraqi plains with adequate water supplies, reachable from Turkey (and Iran) over mountain passes, but Kurds weakened by hunger will have to be helped down from the mountains along protected routes. Before even the first of them move, they will have to be persuaded that allied forces will stay as long as is necessary to ensure their safety. Relief centres must also be created along the border with Iran, to which most Kurds have fled. The scheme fails to provide for the Shia refugees in southern Iraq, who are offered only the protection of a tiny UN observer unit within a "demilitarised zone" under Iraqi civilian control. The proposed allied troop levels put the inadequacy of that arrangement in perspective.

The allied operation in the north is still a good start — provided it has the decisive backing needed to deter Baghdad from intervening. The allies have decided not to wait on the United Nations, and in so doing have embarked on a new game of bluff with President Saddam Hussein. But they were

right not to wait. This is a humanitarian enforcement operation, different in character from traditional relief. Too many Kurds would have died before a standard UN operation could have been mounted. Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN secretary-general, insists that to carry relief into Iraq requires Baghdad's approval. That would not only hand Saddam a food-aid weapon, which he could use to herd the Kurds into "secure" villages under Iraqi control, but would in practice condemn thousands to starve.

Without military guarantees, many would have stayed in the mountains out of terror, beyond the reach of more than marginal relief operations. Airlifts can help in minor emergencies, but a land operation is indispensable to reach up to two million. Left to the UN, moreover, action inside Iraq would have had to wait on a report from Señor Pérez de Cuellar's "fact-finding mission". And the UN is in no position to declare territory out of bounds to Iraqi troops, which now control most of the towns and cities. Saddam would be likely to ride roughshod over any veto not backed by force.

The allies stress that their action is purely humanitarian and that they intend to relinquish the task as soon as practicable to the United Nations. Some members of the UN team dispatched to Baghdad objected yesterday that the allies' action put them on "collision course" with the UN. Señor Pérez de Cuellar should be these envoys to heel. Instead of carping, their job is to get Saddam to accept terms which will enable the allies to hand over to the UN, with confidence that the victims will be adequately protected.

The UN team has now been reinforced by an experienced former high commissioner for refugees, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan. He should drive a tough bargain with Saddam. No refugee will feel safe in areas under Baghdad's control, and the UN will only create a credible alternative if that is recognised. Humanitarian policing, with teeth, is uncharted territory for the UN. The sooner such a regime is in place — if necessary, without Baghdad's consent — the sooner the allies can relinquish the task they have begun. But they cannot settle for less.

## MENACE OF DRUG WARS

Murderous gangs fighting "drug wars" and an escalation of other drug-related crime are threatening to overwhelm the police's anti-drug enforcement efforts, Lancashire's Chief Constable, Brian Johnson, told the Association of Chief Police Officers' annual drugs conference yesterday. Inevitably he called for more money and men "to combat the growing menace". But the police have been given more money and men for two decades. Has the menace stopped growing?

In 1967, after overprescription by a few GPs had caused a public outcry, the possession of heroin was effectively criminalised. Before, the drug had been legally available to registered addicts on prescription from doctors. Drug-dependency clinics were set up to prescribe methadone, a heroin substitute, often in quantities insufficient to feed an addict's habit. GPs without a licence were denied the right to prescribe heroin. The drug-users were forced onto the black market, and possession of non-prescribed heroin was still a crime. Addicts became criminals and were driven underground.

In those days, the number of registered addicts was under 3,000. Now there are probably more than 20,000 notified addicts (the basis of counting has changed, so the comparable figure has to be an estimate). But the true number of addicts is far higher, since most buy their drug on the black market. Research suggests a multiplier of at least five: that makes over 100,000 in Britain. This shocking growth has happened despite vastly increased law enforcement, both domestically and internationally.

Criminal syndicates make a fortune out of addicts. According to Mr Johnson, they are creating violent mayhem on the streets of

British cities. Instead of trying and failing to catch the criminals, the answer must be to pull the market from under their feet.

Heroin abuse is unlikely ever to be eradicated altogether, any more than alcohol abuse. Dependency clinics in America and Britain accept that addiction is the same phenomenon whether the drug is caffeine, nicotine, Valium or heroin. Policy should be directed at minimising the harm addicts do both to themselves and to others.

Home Office research shows that addicts undergoing treatment are far less likely to be involved in crime. For most addicts that crime is either stealing or dealing, since few are rich enough to finance their habit out of earnings. Each addict who becomes a dealer needs to create a network of new addicts to make enough money from dealing to buy his drugs. A pyramid of addiction is formed. Were heroin to be available on prescription, the bottom would be sliced off this pyramid. The black market would virtually vanish. Young people wanting to experiment with heroin would have great trouble finding any.

Although doctors say they do not want their caring role to be replaced by one of supply, they still dole out repeat prescriptions for drugs such as barbiturates. The prescription of undoctor, NHS-grade heroin would cut the small number of deaths from abuse. Each addict could undertake to have a period of counselling every month.

The treatment would cost money. This may be harder to sell to Tory MPs than more money for drug-law enforcement. But by taking heroin out of the hands of criminals and putting it back in the hands of doctors, huge sums could be saved from the police budget — and the drug wars would end of their own accord.

## CARDIFF BAY BARRIER

The Welsh Office did the decent thing yesterday and accepted parentage of the Cardiff barrage scheme. A private bill to allow a barrage across Cardiff Bay, blocked after an all-night prevarication in the Commons, will therefore return in due course as government business with the whips to drive it through.

The claimed benefits of the barrage scheme, which include turning Cardiff into one of the great cities of Europe, are large enough to make it an appropriate matter for national government. The barrage was deemed private bill business only because the legislation concerns one engineering project. But this is at the heart of an urban redevelopment scheme second only to London Docklands, with implications for the Welsh economy and infrastructure as well as for the future of Wales's capital city.

The project is strongly opposed by an alliance of environmentalists and a splinter group of Welsh Labour MPs, the former because of its impact on the habitat of wildfowl, the latter because people might make good money from it. Some 30,000 new jobs have been forecast and the scale of possible investment runs into billions of pounds — it would be not the incentive, pointless, if profit were the barrage. Officially, Labour supports the barrage.

Cardiff, like Liverpool and other once-great ports, has a problem finding its commercial identity. Cardiff's coastal position on the estuaries of the Taff and Ely rivers turned the city into the port for the heavy industry of the Welsh valleys. Now

the valleys are quiet, the docks are unused and the Cardiff Bay area is a clutter of dereliction, struggling to emerge into post-industrial prosperity on the strength of houses, shops and "leisure". At low tide, with great expanses of estuarial mud exposed, the bleak waterfront can be a miserable sight. Investment is not easily attracted to such a place.

A dam or barrage across the bay would produce a non-tidal freshwater lake of 500 acres, making Cardiff Britain's first lakeside city. The Cardiff Bay Development Corporation believes that a ten-mile waterfront, properly landscaped and serviced, would be a magnet for homes, commercial properties and visitors.

Despite the controversy, the corporation has refused to scale down its big idea, aiming to sustain its vision of an "international maritime city" which would even include a waterside national opera house echoing the one at Sydney. The critics dispute the grander claims, but concede that the revival of the docklands area of Cardiff presents an enormous and costly challenge.

The environmental loss will be of an existing wetland home for fowl and waders, partly to be offset by the creation of a wetlands conservation area nearby. The environmental gain, surely far greater, would be the end of the dereliction of Cardiff docklands, and a lake of great beauty. If Cardiff wants to gamble on a better future, it should be allowed to do so, and the government should help it where it can.

## Case for putting Saddam on trial

From Lord Shawcross, QC

Sir, It is to be hoped that the government lawyers to whom the prime minister has referred the matter for advice will not use too much mid-night oil in exploring the legal minutiae of whether Saddam Hussein has committed the crime of genocide against the Kurds (report, April 17).

This is a mixed question of law and fact which can safely be left to the tribunal of leading international lawyers that would have to be set up if it is decided that Saddam should be put on trial for this and other charges. For, in our horror at the calculations of the Kurds, we seem to have lost sight of the fact that the present international involvement arose through the undoubted commission by Saddam of other equally grave crimes against international law, also involving great human suffering.

The invasion of Kuwait was a clear case of waging aggressive war, made criminal by the Pact of Paris in 1928. It was applied with personal responsibility on the leaders of the state committed to by the Nuremberg tribunal and subsequently confirmed by the United Nations.

Saddam Hussein would not appear to have any defence whatever to the charge of this crime. Then there are war crimes and crimes against humanity, as defined by the Nuremberg tribunal and the Geneva Convention of 1949.

The question is not whether Saddam has committed grave crimes. It is the political one of how and whether he can be required to participate in a trial. And if he cannot, whether it would none the less still be useful to have the judgment of an international tribunal as to his guilt.

Yours faithfully,  
HARTLEY SHAWCROSS,  
House of Lords,  
April 17.

## Plea for Kuwaiti press

From Mr H. R. Khokhar

Sir, The Emir of Kuwait (report, April 8, later editions) has pledged to hold elections and revise the parliament next year. I hope that the country's press, which was destroyed by the Iraqi occupation forces, will also be restored quickly.

About 40 Kuwaiti publications, including five dailies (three in Arabic and two in English) had been closed since the Iraqi occupation in August last year and about 250 journalists (Arab, English and Asian) lost their jobs.

The Iraqi occupation forces took away the newspapers' latest equipment to Baghdad and removed most of the new electronic media equipment. All this needs quick replacement.

Yours faithfully,  
H. R. KHOKHAR (President,  
Council of Third World Newspapers),  
260 Park West, W2,  
April 8.

## Delays in court

From his Honour Judge Anthony Tibber

Sir, The general argument of Anthony Scriven's article on consumers and the law, "Serving those who stand and wait" (Legal Brief, April 2), is probably acceptable to all interested in the consumer's view of the legal process, but gives scant consideration to the problems of listing.

Of the number of substantial cases listed at 10am (not 10.30am in all courts), most will almost certainly settle and, of the rest, more than one will not be ready for trial and will seek an adjournment. In the end, there will probably be one that is ready to proceed. If only one matter is listed at the start of the day, listing for the other matters will extend way into the future and the complaint will then be that delays are too great.

Listing is an art that can be learned only by experience. If only one full-day case is listed at Edmonstone County Court there is a substantial chance that the day will be wholly wasted and cases will be listed many weeks or months after they are set down. The normal wait for listing here after a case (estimated to last a day) is certified as being ready for trial is between six and eight weeks — often too short for the parties to be ready in fact.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY TIBBER,  
Edmonstone County Court,  
Fore Street, Upper Edmonstone, N18.

## Water safeguards

From the Chairman of the Darent River Preservation Society

Sir, Mr Roff (April 6) should know that chalk streams, the rarity of which you emphasised in your excellent leading article (April 2), support exceptional flora, fauna and other wildlife providing the flow is maintained.

Many are in areas designated by the Countryside Commission. Much of the Darent Valley, to which you refer, is in the North Downs area of outstanding natural beauty. Lord Crickhowell himself stood on the dried-up bed of our river last summer and his National Rivers Authority has identified 20 rivers in need of urgent special attention, including the Darent.

The river's main problem is over-abstraction. There is much more to this problem than maintaining the fish.

Yours faithfully,  
D. M. ATTWOOD, Chairman,  
Darent River Preservation Society,  
Old Cottage,  
Shoreham,  
Sevenoaks, Kent,  
April 8.

## Sense and sensibilities on the census

From Mrs Marian Wendon

Sir, It has always been my understanding that census returns are totally confidential and that census enumerators are appointed to work in areas other than where they live. Imagine my surprise on discovering last weekend that our enumerator is a resident of this small village, known to me.

Our local census area manager, whom I contacted, assured me that this should not have happened and that he would put it right. As a result, our enumerator has now given me an envelope for the form, marked "Not to be opened by census enumerator".

Apparently such envelopes are supposed to be offered to any householder known to the enumerator. I recommend anyone finding themselves in this position to demand one; in our area, it seems, only I have been given it — and then only because I made a fuss.

Surely householders will only complete census forms accurately and honestly if they feel confident of the confidentiality of the system. If they do not, then the census will actually be misleading, which is worse than no census at all.

Yours faithfully,  
MARIAN WENDON,  
Woodpeckers,  
Ford Lane, East Hendred,  
Wantage, Oxfordshire,  
April 17.

From Mrs Alexandra Morgan

Sir, The only question relating to nationality in the forthcoming census (question 10 on the form) asks about the "country of birth".

In this household there will be, on the night of April 21:

myself, born in Greece of Bulgarian parents (and therefore of Bulgarian nationality at birth) and now a British citizen by marriage;  
my two children, born in Switzerland and Germany respectively, but both British citizens because of their British father and (naturalised) British mother;

my cousin, born in Bulgaria and still a Bulgarian citizen.

How is the census going to interpret statistically the nationalities involved? Shall we have a tower of Babel, with a Greek, a Swiss, a German and a Bulgarian living happily together in this country? Or are we all going to be counted as British citizens, which my cousin definitely is not?

Surely the form should have asked for (a) nationality at (rather than country of) birth, and (b) present citizenship.

Yours sincerely,  
ALEXANDRA MORGAN,  
42 Waldemar Avenue, SW6.

From Mr Joseph I. Gordon

Sir, Is it not ironic that, at a time when South Africa is abolishing its compulsory classification of its citizens into different racial categories, the United Kingdom government compels its citizens (question 11 of the census) to classify themselves into various racial categories?

Yours faithfully,  
JOSEPH I. GORDON,  
50 Redhill Drive,  
Whithead,  
Brighton, East Sussex.

## Heritage changes

From the Chairman of English Heritage

Sir, Marcus Binney's sweeping article "Guardians of England's glory demeaned", April 16, seems to be designed to smite the government, the Department of the Environment and English Heritage hip and thigh on a number of issues.

My main concern is that he revives some old canards and obviously ill-informed fears about the amalgamation of the former GLC Historic Buildings Division into English Heritage in 1986, and the marriage of the two organisations' staff, philosophies and powers.

I would like to assure him that English Heritage both asked for at the time and continue to think it essential to have the powers provided to us in London, and that there has been no suggestion by anyone, including the Department of the Environment, that those powers should be in any way curtailed.

The added cost of operating those powers has been noted publicly for

## Stabs in back that harm the stage

From Mr John Osborne

Sir, Exactly two years ago this week I finished a new stage play. Since then I have discovered that it is almost impossible to persuade star actors even to read a manuscript. Should they do so, passionate avowals of loyal commitment are reneged upon abruptly and without explanation, but patently for the reasons of expediency Mr Robin Hawdon (April 11) suggests. Old acquaintances and former colleagues, grown bullish in the lush pastures of film and television, disregard a personal postcard and loftily refer you to their agents.

I assumed that my personal and professional reputation incited such contempt. I discover this is not the case and that other playwrights, more popular and successful than myself, find themselves left waiting in the servants' hall for a summons that may or may not come, for a commitment forgotten as soon as made.

I was merely naive: this is now the accepted behaviour of male "stars". Interestingly, I am informed that the female of the species is less craven.

During my career I have been blessed with the great fortune of having my work served, as possibly no other playwright in history, by the giant talents of Ralph Richardson, Laurence Olivier, John Gielgud, Alec Guinness, Richard Burton, Paul Scofield, Trevor Howard and many others. All of them would have blanched at the prevailing lustreless discourtesy.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN OSBORNE,  
The Hurst, Chuntun,  
Craven Arms, Shropshire,  
April 17.

## Religion in schools

From Mr Nicolas Walter

Sir, Anthony Coombs (April 12) is worried about "the kind of relative comparative religion shading into blatant secularism" in the current application of the Education Reform Act to religious education. There is no serious danger of this. The real danger is rather a return to the kind of dogmatic traditional religion shading into blatant propaganda.

What is needed is surely a proper education about religion, which should of course reflect the predominance of Christianity in this country, but also the existence of other religions and indeed non-religious ethical traditions. And this is what responsible local authorities and teachers are trying to provide.

Yours etc,  
NICOLAS WALTER,  
Nationalist Press Association,  
88 Islington High Street, N1,  
April 9.

## Ordination of women

From Canon R. C. Craston

Sir, The Bishop of London (April 6) centres his opposition to the ordination of women as priests on the Incarnation of God as a male person. But many who are equally committed to the biblical revelation do not accept the deductions he draws.

Undoubtedly the Incarnation happened at the time in history God decreed, and everything in the culture of the day and in the context of the Jewish faith required it to be as a male. But the primary significance of the Incarnation is not the gender but the assumption of humanity in its totality. For, "what is not assumed is not redeemed."

And while male in his earthly life, still fulfilling all the Old Testament images of Messiah, Son of Man, Suffering Servant, Lamb (male without blemish), Christ ascended takes redeemed humanity in its fullness, male and female, to the Father's throne.

Representation of the ascended Christ in the Church and the world can thus be by men and women. It is of Christ incarnate, crucified, risen and ascended, and not of him at one particular point in his earthly life, such as at the Last Supper, that representation applies.

There have been through most of Christian history too far cultural reasons for the restriction of ordained ministry to males. The time is now ripe for further exploration of the representation of God in human beings, relating the taking up of humanity into the God-head to the significance of the *imago dei* concept in the creation of humanity, male and female.

Yours faithfully,  
R. C. CRASTON,  
St Paul's Vicarage,  
174 Chorley New Road,  
Bolton, Greater Manchester.

## Wrong pitch

From Mr R. G. Lofting

Sir, The bumble bee's buzz note reported by Dr Walkey (April 12) is presumably related to its wing beat. Memories from my flying days tell me that any flying machine must produce more lift than its weight in a climb and less in a descent.

I assume *Bombus* knows this, too, and therefore varies its wing beat. Perhaps Dr Walkey could extend his research into the creature's "flight envelope" and come up with a bombiform scale?

Yours faithfully,  
R. G. LOFTING,  
Penryn Moor, North Street,  
Norton St Philip,  
Bath, Avon.











## Falstaff in earnest . . .

THEATRE  
Henry IV Part I  
RST, Stratford

Royalty meets rebels: Michael Maloney (left), Rob Edwards and Robert Stephens in Henry IV Part I

THIS is Adrian Noble's first production since he took over the RSC's orb and sceptre, and it is one which suggests that, whatever the company may lack during his reign, it will not be intelligence, subtlety or feeling for language. Perhaps significantly, there is something casual and cursory about the purely physical comedy of the scene in which Falstaff robs the Kent travellers, only to be unrobbed by Hal. Certainly, there is no doubting the finesse of the teasing post-mortem that follows, or of their next encounter, the prince and his favourite wilyly play-acting his impending confrontation with the king.

There is much play-acting here. Robert Stephens' Falstaff does a comical imitation of Michael Maloney's Hal, who in turn cruelly mimics Julian Glover's King at his most plummy somber. Again, Maloney has different accents for the pub and for the parading sheriff, whom he greets in spoof-Sandhurst tones. Even Owen Teale's hold Falstaff has a mean vocal line on Glendower, among others. Whether or not the text asks it, everybody seems able to put on funny voices at the expense of everyone else.

This is so marked it must be deliberate policy on Noble's part. But why? Perhaps merely to add to the evening's humour or to emphasise the characters' relatively sophisticated sense of fun. Or perhaps to bring out the amount of role-playing to be found in the play. After all, many

characters have their hidden agendas: the rebels, Hal's retinue, the prince himself.

The last is the evening's prime emphasis. Maloney's Hal is a good, energetic fellow, and genuinely cares for Falstaff. But his most private monologue is packed with what might, paradoxically, be called an intensely mystical longing for admiration, fame and glory. It is equally evident that Falstaff has his ambitions, and that there is a deadly jealousy between Falstaff and Falstaff. There is a surmountable battle for the heart of the prince and, through him, for Britain. The likelihood to gain is, of course, Falstaff, in Stephens' wonderful performance much more a droll, canny observer of himself and others than the carousing

jester of tradition. Perhaps the reading edges too far towards wry sobriety. This Falstaff would never have spent six shillings on sack to a halfpenny on bread, as the text claims. Again, the great speech on honour almost becomes a Socratic dialogue. But there is no missing Stephens' emotional force when, in that celebrated playing-acting scene, he gets a hint of his coming rejection. He dives at the prince, half-blubbing out his plea that everyone but him be banished. There, unfortunately, is the character's desperation for friendship and power.

Until Eastcheap unfolds, the staging is simple, a matter of backing a throne with a vast cross or importing a few stark chairs. Then, suddenly, we are confronted

with something beyond a mere red-light district. There are red sofas, tables and stairs and, cut into a vast red wall, a red upper-room in which a whore is absently-mindedly serving a priest. As for the battle scenes, they begin excitingly, with both armies rising from the stage's bowels in a huge pyramid of heaving cavalry. But can we have better fighting in *Henry IV Part I*?

If *Part I* is anything to go by, we can expect still more complexities from Stephens, Maloney and Glover, a *Henry IV* who begins the evening full of confidence and zeal and ends it wily clutching at his evidently dicky heart. I for one can hardly wait.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## ... and Falstaff in pantomime

OPERA  
Falstaff  
Theatre Royal, Glasgow

THIS may be Scottish Opera, but Ian Judge's new production of Verdi's comedy is decisively English. Rather as he did with *The Comedy of Errors* at Stratford last year, Judge has created a world with mid-20th-century references, which include the sardines, nobs, winks and other sticky-tongued movements of a very English comic style. If it were needed, the programme offers a cue to this, though its allusions to Donald McGill are less apposite than the still from *Terry and June*.

Falstaff becomes a Jimmy Edwards figure, and the Garter King a rather smart hotel, imposing certain standards of dress on its clientele: even Burdolph and Pistol are in plus fours, plaids and Argyle socks, while Falstaff's page is a Bunter look-alike, reading the *Rambling* from items of stock.

Mark Thompson's set is excellent for the opening scene, but it provides no effective change of

place for Ford's house or for the final scene in the park, where the chandeliers, mirror ceiling, doorway, grand staircase and upper landing all convey a dislocation way beyond the scope of this production. More consistently successful are Thompson's costumes, a lively parade of discords between Elizabethan and modern dress. Fenton, for instance, sports a royal-blue jacket halfway between doublet and blazer, while the other men have ruffs jammed over essentially 20th-century clothes; and the women's crinolines are made up in 1950s prints.

It is all very smart, bright and tidy. There is no trace of dirt and headless self-indulgence slopping around this Falstaff, who is already such a turn old gem at the start that when he comes on attired for his wooing he has to appear wildly over the top. And at the start of Act III he is presented not drizzled with river water but soaking himself in a hot bath. It seems unlikely that such a jolly odder represents any kind of sexual threat, and Gordon Sandison, perhaps bounded by the persona given him, does not suggest much physical energy in

his singing, which is brushed in lightly and sometimes sideways. There are, however, some excellent vocal performances. Steven Page is an excellent Ford, deeply dark in tone and absolutely emphatic; he also nimbly cuts in the comic possibilities of his disguise without losing an ounce of his power and seriousness. John Mark Ainsley and Susannah Waters make a very personable pair of young lovers; it is a delight to hear Ainsley's lovely singing in the theatre, and Waters, too, is youthfully fresh, with her own bubbling aplomb.

Maria Prosperi, the only native Italian in the cast, uses the language more wily and lasciviously than her companions, and contributes a spirited, brightly sung *Alce*. But when everybody else in the cast is British, and when this is such a genial pantomime of a production, it does seem odd to hear its sing in Italian.

John Mancini in the pit seems to be trying to stimulate an orchestra which responds only with odd moments of beauty or élan.

PAUL GRIFFITHS



Bawled as trim old gent: Falstaff (Gordon Sandison)

THEATRE  
Matador  
Queen's

IF BIZET's original story for *Carmen* Jones is included in the tally, this is the third musical with a Spanish theme to open in a week and, as its title indicates, the bullfighting theme is not the bull but the hero: Domingo Hernandez, *El Niño de la Nada*, or The Boy From Nowhere.

His rise from a nowhere village in Andalusia is thrillingly staged by Elijah Mohtashimi against a succession of William Dudley's spectacular sets. A bull ring opens

out to become a steep hill-town; a grove of moonlit trees gives place to a horizon of pasture, and from the towering silhouette of a black bull the six dancers who personify this animal advance upon the raw young matador.

Artene Phillips is credited with the overall choreography but the flamenco dances for the bull men are the work of Rafael Aguilar. With upraised arms held forward, the dancers approach in their tight phalanx, turn, stamp heels or pause with toes pointed on the ground like the point of a hoof. In their presence the glamour of a bullfight and, though I hate to say so, its glory, seizes the imagination.

The other dancing is hardly less

arresting. Village women, crashing pebbles together for emphasis, enact the atrocities of the civil war while the brass section of the orchestra zigzags up the scale. Hooded penitents, Moorish maids and orange-sellers weave amongst each other (a mute kitchy, this) to suggest the richness that is Spain. The orchestration of Michael Leander's music is also ingenious — note the sound of steam punctuating the melody when Domingo and his pal Tomas (Alexander Hanson) are sheltering in railway sidings.

For the first half the story is workmanlike, not too fettered with cliché, and Edward Seago's lyrics contain clever half-rhymes. The hero's rise is told from the

point of view of the disillusioned Tomas, and then Nicky Henson, Domingo's would-be Svengali, takes over. But what happens after the interval? Stephanie Powers arrives, playing a Hollywood film star power-dressed in beltopro, and under fearful banishments aimed at showing our hero that shedding blood is horrible.

The drama collapses, and John Barrowman, who has a torero's shape and his sulky grin, and who sings "A Boy from Nowhere" as though he truly feels it, must take on the role of representative of the oppressed. I hesitate to suggest leaving at the interval, but the evening will seem better by so doing.

JEREMY KINGSTON

## NEW RELEASES

THE SCORPION OF THE VAMPIRES (16) Brian De Palma's splendid cartoon-like horror at Tim Winters' new. Tim Winters' music is the new high-tech and down by the sea.  
Cannons: Baker Street (071-435 5772)  
Fulham Road (071-370 2330) Piccadilly (071-382 1527) Oxford Street (071-435 5772)

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## CINEMA GUIDE

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# EBRD off to a faltering start

COMMENT

This week should have marked a peak in the career of Jacques Attali, president of the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, whose official launch ceremonies ended in London yesterday.

Unfortunately, and not just for M Attali, it did not quite turn out that way. He may eventually attain greater heights, but already there have been setbacks to overcome.

The bank's first week was marked by much behind-the-scenes backbiting, envy and intolerance, as some of its shareholders by no means your average investor but representatives from 39 governments and two institutions — did lots to spoil the party.

Even though M Attali is right to point to the remarkable speed with which the bank was set up, there has been a heavy cost. The bank's constitution, which gives its political shareholders a great say in its operations, already appears structurally flawed, and this even before the bank has lent a single ecu.

It has become clear that

America, whose paranoia over a strong European economy is increasing constantly, will be the bank's most awkward shareholder. America, with 10 per cent also the largest backer, opposed the European bank's involvement in the privatisation of eastern German companies, despite an overwhelming commercial logic.

Eastern Germany, despite its troubles, is still at present one of the few eastern and central European regions that offer at least some good commercial and investment opportunities.

To press home his irritation, Nicholas Brady earlier this week demanded that the shareholders have an even greater say in the bank, to be achieved through strengthening the board of directors, which he does regard not as an advisory one but instead as a critical element of the bank's operations.

The Times has pointed out on several occasions that it is

absolutely essential for M Attali and his highly qualified team to operate with as much independence as possible since there is nothing more capable of stifling the success of the bank than political shareholders interfering in what should be commercial decisions. But it may be that stifling the operation is what some of the shareholders have in mind.

We know now that the bank's independence will be limited. M Attali will have to contend with a 24-strong non-executive board, resident in London, all expenses paid, at a cost amounting to one quarter of the bank's staff budget.

One might wonder whether a bureaucratic and political setup of this kind is best placed to help east Europe embrace the free market economy. One outspoken critic is Vaclav Klaus, not a

friend of the bank, who is even accusing the West of reimporting socialism back into his country. He has a point. The constitutional structure of the bank and the political motives of its shareholders have more than a little in common with a socialist state combine. The people of east Europe deserve better than that and will hope that the ill omens of this week are not fulfilled.

## Chinese wall

The market has been telling Coats Viyella that it must raise the stakes in order to win control of its rival textile firm Tootal. Tootal shares have been trading about 10p above Coats' all cash offer of 65p per share. Enter Cha Chi Ming to heighten

Coats' difficulties by adding 500,000 shares to his own substantial holding at a price of 74.5p. But whether Mr Cha can successfully build his own version of a Chinese wall in defence of Tootal remains to be seen.

The move is a high profile rejection of the offer and one that will carry some weight. Mr Cha, whose Far Eastern interests include both textiles and property now speaks for 6.3 per cent of Tootal worth some £13 million and is not to be underestimated.

Earlier this week, Coats was understandably miffed at the further delay in Office of Fair Trading clearance for its £194 million bid for Tootal. Earlier marriage plans were picked over thoroughly by both the OFT and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and cleared subject to a tidying up of the combined thread interests.

Coats has taken what steps it

believed were needed to meet the MMC's conditions, so why the further delay?

Undoubtedly sheer frustration explains part of Coats's reaction. Time is on the defender's side in buoyant markets with further base rate cuts in the air.

Tootal will use the delay to push home to the City its strongly argued case that it already has a well developed strategy for independence in a tough trading environment.

The second string to the defence is the clear assertion that Coats needs Tootal more than Tootal needs Coats. But if Tootal is working on a profits forecast to pull from its hat if it should be needed, the extra time will also be helpful.

On the evidence of other British industries which have suffered at the hands of ferocious overseas competition, Tootal's search for niches and added value at the expense of low margin volume has much to commend it.

Tootal shareholders should sit tight while the OFT re-examines its case notes.

## Andy Capp holds up Mirror to the public

ROBERT Maxwell, with customary aplomb, has launched the publicity campaign for the flotation of Mirror Group Newspapers. Over the next three weeks, the public, and *Daily Mirror* readers in particular, will be bombarded by images of Andy Capp, the cartoon character, encouraging them to invest in the £250 million flotation.

Mirror Group is selling between 45 and 49 per cent of its enlarged share capital, to raise an estimated £250 million and value the entire group at about £500 million. Of this, £210 million is being used to repay the group's bank borrowings.

The company publishes the *Daily Mirror*, the *Sunday Mirror*, the *People* and the *Sporting Life*, the racing newspaper. In Scotland, it produces the *Daily Record* and the *Sunday Mail*, as well as two free newspapers. The company also owns a 26 per cent stake in Quebecor Printing, a Canadian commercial printer, and a 26 per cent holding in Donohue, a Canadian timber and newspaper group.

Mr Maxwell is targeting the flotation at the small investor. The prospectus will be published in the *Mirror* and the minimum subscription will be £250. Only about a third of the shares will be available to the public. The rest, depending on demand, are being placed with British, continental and American institutions.

Prospective investors in MGN can only dream of doing as well as Mr Maxwell, who has made a massive return on the £113 million he paid for the group in 1984. Over the years, Mirror Group has lent Headington Investments, one of his many private companies, £304 million. All this will be forgiven at the flotation by the declaration of notional dividends.

These notional payments are in addition to a £14.9 million dividend the company paid in 1989, when its capital expenditure was at its peak.

Robert Maxwell Holdings, a further private company, stands to gain about £40 million of the flotation's proceeds through the declaration of another notional dividend. After the flotation, Robert



Maxwell Holdings will own a stake of 51 to 55 per cent in the group, worth an estimated £250 million at the issue price. Mirror Group's fortunes have been transformed since Mr Maxwell bought it. In the year to March 1984, it made a £4.3 million operating profit on a £274 million turnover. Cost reductions and a £500 million investment programme turned this into an £88.3 million operating profit on sales of £445 million last year. The group is not publishing a profit forecast for the current

year but says that operating profits in the first quarter were ahead of 1990, due to higher circulation and advertising revenue. This is in spite of a 130,000 fall in the circulation of the *Mirror* and *Record*, to 3.76 million.

The turnaround and the investment has strained Mirror Group's balance sheet considerably. The company has valued its newspaper titles at £625 million. Without this, the group would have had net assets of £5 million last year, compared with bank loans of more than £380 million.

The pathfinder prospectus makes it clear that, regardless of the flotation, MGN will remain inextricably woven into Mr Maxwell's web of public and private interests since Mr Maxwell will remain as executive chairman with his son, Ian, as deputy chairman.

The company will continue to pay for administrative services from Maxwell Communications Corporation, Mr Maxwell's other main public company, and Pergamon Holdings, his private vehicle.

The hand-in-glove relationship between MGN, MCC and Pergamon is demonstrated best by the treatment of the *Mirror* building at Holborn Circus, London. Mirror Group rents from MCC for £7 million a year. MCC in turn leases the building from Pergamon.

It also seems likely that Mirror Group will engage in the inter-company deals, which have flattered heavily Mr Maxwell's business history.

Headington Investments is retaining control of Mr Maxwell's loss-making newspaper businesses, principally *The European* and the *Daily News* in New York, along with some eastern European titles. These will be offered to Mirror Group when they turn into profit. With the *Daily News*, this could be by the year end. The issue seems destined to be priced at a p/e ratio of about ten, and Mirror Group's merchant bankers are confident of a good reception from institutions.

NEIL BENNETT  
Banking Correspondent

## Lloyds Chemists keeps to formula

THE two latest acquisitions at Lloyds Chemists are both more of the same and something different.

The £48 million purchase of Kingswood-GK from Booker and the founding Kiamia family is definitely in the former category. Despite its size, this is very much a formula deal for Lloyds. The usual savings-wringing rules will be applied, including closing the head office and the two local warehouses.

These and other measures will take an estimated £2 million out of costs at Kingswood. Lloyds tried and tested formula of refurbishment, longer opening hours, a higher proportion of non-NHS sales, and new product ranges can also be expected to start the tills ringing at a faster rate than hitherto. It may be predictable but a succession of previous similar deals has shown that it works.

The less expected part of the Booker package, the 191 Holland & Barrett health food stores, may require somewhat different treatment, but the Lloyds management is confident savings can be made.

The shops are being bought at a discount to net assets at the low price of £36,000 per outlet. On last year's operating profits of £930,000, Lloyds is paying a multiple of about 11

times, though the £2 million cost cuts would reduce this to about four times.

The one-for-two rights issue financing the deals means the acquisitions are likely to be marginally dilutive in the current year to end-June, with perhaps one percentage point taken off earnings growth. Expected pre-tax profits of £19 million would give 19.3p of earnings on the enlarged capital base, putting the shares on a multiple of 14. The real benefit, however, will come through in 1992, when pre-tax profits can be expected to reach £33 million and earnings per share 23.3p. The rights should be taken up.

## Higgs and Hill

IF HIGGS and Hill is to play a full part in the reconstruction of Kuwait, it is evident that it could do with a little rebuilding of its own finances.

Although the balance sheet looks no less healthy than most in the sector, with gearing down to 20 per cent by the year end and if the two joint venture projects are ignored, the outlook is not encouraging.

Earnings of just 10.2p a share, after exceptional items, barely paid for half the 1990 dividend, and, while analysts were having difficulty adjusting their forecasts yesterday, there was little doubt that there will not be much to spare once the promised maintained payment has been made this year.

Given the expectations of a further net cash outflow, it should not, perhaps, have come as much of a surprise that the board would seek to take advantage of the recent rise in the share price on the strength of Middle East contract hopes, to raise fresh funds.

However, the terms of the £24.8 million rights issue, indicating a near 25 per cent discount to the current share price, acknowledge a certain concern in the market about the near-term prospects. For all the promise of eastern Europe, underlined by the group's agreement to build the £50 million Praha Hotel, and the balance that the expansion into water engineering will bring, the 74 per cent cash in profits was among the worst in the sector. Even if Higgs can chalk up

25p of earnings this time, the price/earnings multiple is close to 13 at the ex-rights price of 322p. There are better investments in the sector.

## River & Mercantile

RIGHTS issues by investment trusts reflect buoyant markets and the success of split capital formulas. River & Mercantile Extra Income is raising up to £15.6 million only 18 months after its launch. The shares are offered at 106p, marginally above asset value, against a market price of 110p. They are likely to be popular with the group's many holders of personal equity plans (Pepe).

Gearing comes from a zero coupon debenture, so the portfolio value must rise at an average 4.5 per cent just to maintain asset value at 100p. So far, the shares have beaten the index even in capital terms, despite the 10 per cent yield.

The issue will, however, alter the arithmetic because the gearing is reduced. This means the yield on the underlying portfolio must eventually rise from about 6 to 8 per cent, involving use of convertibles. Lower gearing will also affect the warrants, showing the dangers of tinkering with complex capital structures.

## British Gas advises customers of amendments to the Medium Term Contract Pricing Schedules.

Schedule MT2 Addendum 18th April 1991

As a result of supply constraints, Firm and Interruptible gas supply contracts entered into under Schedule MT2 on or after 1st May 1991 will be subject to the following restrictions:-

1. The nominated consumption for any individual premises under Schedule MT2 shall not exceed 80 million therms for any Contract Year, and
2. The total nominated consumption at any individual premises under Schedule MT2 together with any other Schedule shall not exceed 80 million therms for any Contract Year.

Copies of the Schedules and Conditions of Contract are available from the Registered and Regional Offices of British Gas.

# British Gas

British Gas plc, Registered Office, Rivermill House, 152 Grosvenor Road, London SW1V 3JL.

REGISTERED IN ENGLAND UNDER NO. 2066000

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Pathé ousts Parretti

SIR Hugh Wontner, president of the Savoy Group, may be tickled to learn of the fortunes of Giancarlo Parretti, the Italian financier. For Parretti, who claims to have worked as a waiter at the Savoy Hotel before finding fame and fortune, has been ousted as head of Pathé Communications, the troubled film studio that only four months ago paid \$1.3 billion to buy MOM. His departure was one of the conditions laid down by Crédit Lyonnais, the French state-owned bank, which is to advance a \$154 million rescue package, on top of the \$1.5 billion it has granted Pathé in the past four years. Alan Ladd Jr, a former president of 20th Century Fox, is taking the helm. Parretti is expected to continue as a member of the Pathé board and remain a majority shareholder. Four years ago, Parretti rescued the former Cannon Group film makers. A comeback at the Savoy Grill, meanwhile, does not appear likely.

COUNCIL officials in Santa Clara, California, have hit on an unusual way of finding out what residents want from local government. They intend to interview every hairdresser in the city. John Caravallho, the city manager, says: "These are

the people who listen to local people's problems day in, day out. There's nothing they don't know."

### Lucrative Lads

BRITAIN'S motoring chiefs have their problems, but they should spare a thought for the makers of Lada cars, one of the Soviet Union's better known exports. From July, taxi drivers in Hull who apply for or renew their licence will only be allowed to drive black hackney cabs — a decision that has enraged locals who, it seems, have a soft spot for Ladas. The city council says the cars have given Hull a "joke image", adding that visitors refer to Hull as "Lada taxi city". As the war of words heats up, David Bray, director



"...and hydro is when you take water in it."

of marketing for Lada cars, has written to a local newspaper expressing his outrage. He points out that Hull has been the sole port of entry to Britain for the cars for the past 17 years, providing revenue. "In that time, more than 300,000 of these cars and spare parts have passed through Hull docks, earning the city more than £10 million," he fumes. "Some joke!"

### Mirror image

THE average City prospectus is a dreary affair. But an attempt to liven up the flotation of Robert Maxwell's Mirror Group came to grief at the hands of m'learned friends. The idea was to tell the story of the *Daily Mirror* in true tabloid *Mirror* style. But the lawyers failed to appreciate the joke. The red pens came out, and so did the tabloid-style hyperbole, in exchange for a more suitably legalistic tone in time for yesterday's pathfinder prospectus.

### Watchdog curbs

AFTER suffering hundreds of millions of pounds in losses, Britain's insurance companies are playing hot and heavy over cost control at the insurance ombudsman bureau. "None of us has money to throw around," says Tom Roberts, of General Accident, who chairs the board of the bureau. On average, each company

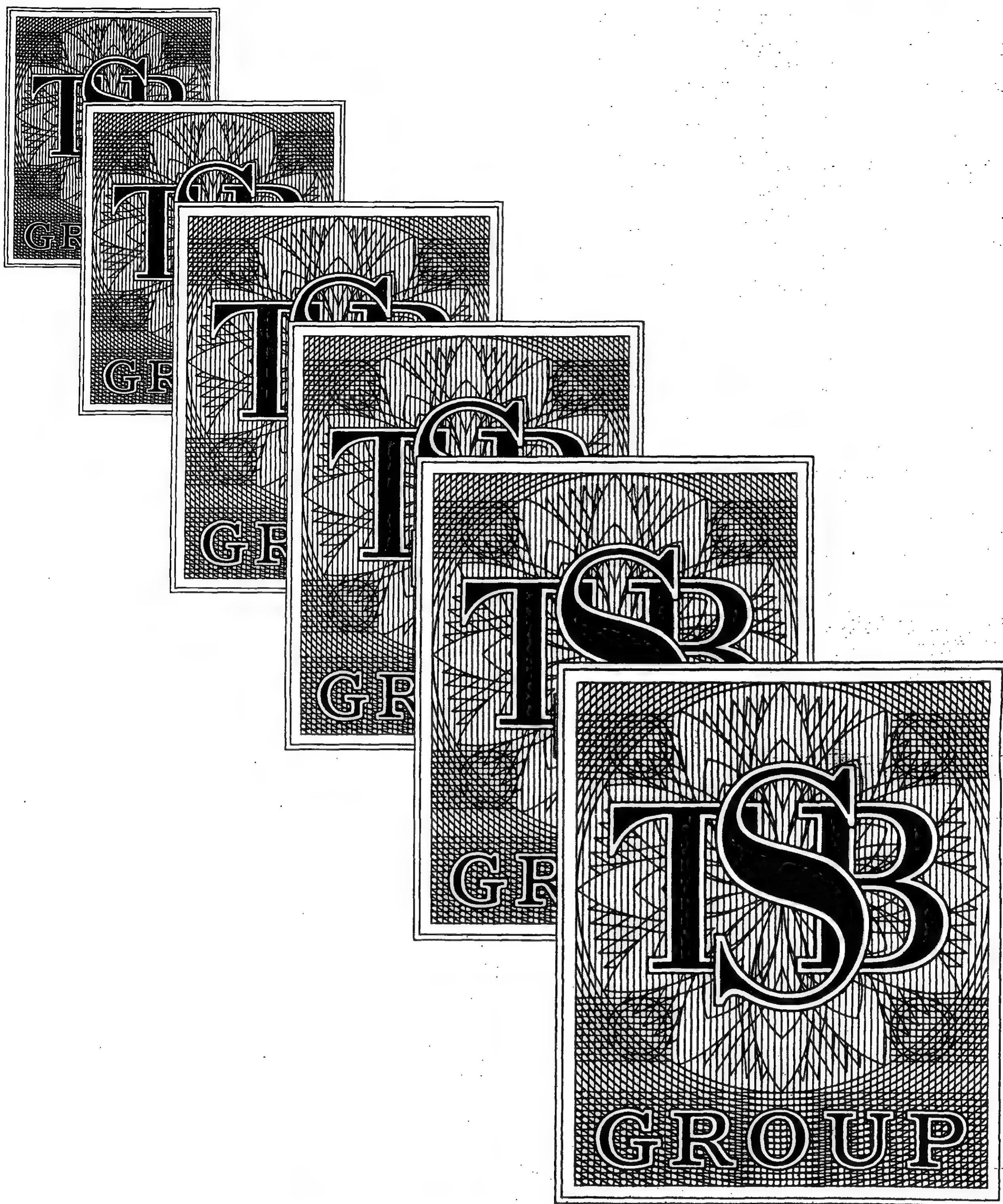
will fork out £4,300 towards this year's £145 million budget. Moving the insurance ombudsman out of London, perhaps to Milton Keynes, where the motor insurers bureau has set up shop, is being considered. Julian Farrand, the ombudsman, should know within months where his new home will be, but the move may do little to dent costs. Even halving the bureau's rent by moving would save the 336 member insurance companies little more than £200 each.

### Jazzed up bank

REVELLERS at Ronnie Scotts Club in Soho last night were intrigued to spot Lord Alexander of Weedon, chairman of National Westminster Bank, among the guests, tapping his feet. He was taking a break from his more serious duties to promote the latest album by the NatWest Jazz Band, recorded in aid of the Save the Children Fund. The last record raised £30,000 for the charity. Lord Alexander says: "It provides an important opportunity to promote the bank's charitable image, and is a clear demonstration of our commitment, even in these difficult times, to our community presence." Music to the ears, perhaps, of County NatWest, which has been given two years to make a profit...or else.

JON ASHWORTH





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For further details please call or write to **Bianca Gramley** Treasurer at **CARE Britain, Dudley House, 36/38 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HE**. Tel. 071-379 5247. Closing date for receipt of applications - 3 May 1991.

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**The closing date for returned forms is 2 May 1991.**

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*Any queries are welcomed and replies sought by 10.00pm whilst enclosing your full CV with current salary details and covering letter to: HR/2000 at the Personnel Manager, Field Services, Personnel Unit, Humberdale Green Road, Sharncliffe, South Leeds, West Yorkshire. LS9 4PL.*

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An application form and job description are also available on the above number or by writing to the Finance Directorate, NETRHA, 40 Eastbourne Terrace, London W2 3QR. Please quote ref: 91/18.

**Closing date: 26 April 1991**

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[illegible]



*Archie*

**The prices in this section refer to Tuesday's trading**

## MONEY MARKETS

1987		Company	Bid	Price Offer	Gross Chrgs	div	p	Yld %	P/E
High	Low								

## COMMODITIES

4%	1%	Clearmark	14	2	—	3.4	1.7	3.1
71	50%	Chief Resources	53	52	0.1	1.3	2.5	21.7
100	50	Colsonville	55	52	0.1	1.3	2.5	21.7

هكذا عن الامم







# Fancy a fantasy space flight?

Make a wish and you can go anywhere. That is the reality of a new computer invention, Chris Partridge says

Computers are about to take people to places they have never been able to visit before, including the surface of other planets. Such a trip will be an illusion, but one that comes closer to real life than anything on stage or screen. Artificial worlds are being built up in a computer memory so that people can walk through at will, look around, and even touch objects.

The system is called virtual reality, so called from the mathematical concept of an image that has the virtues of a real object without the substance. Virtual reality systems are being developed throughout the world for a range of uses including enabling people to walk "inside" nuclear power stations, while controlling a robot that actually goes into an area in which no human could live, and conducting architects through a computer-generated building before it is constructed.

British scientists have a world lead in virtual reality, despite the fact that the technology has been researched by Japanese and American companies, which see it as a technology for the next century. In Britain, Robert Stone, of the Advanced Robotics Research Centre at Salford University, Greater Manchester, is developing systems that could put men on Mars without shooting them into space and could plunge divers under the North Sea without



Seeing is believing: Robert Stone, wearing headset and glove, picks up a teslapot (inset, on screen) in a virtual reality experiment

taking them out of the office. The problem with guiding a robot by looking at a picture from a video camera mounted on it and twiddling the controls is that it is not a natural system. Mr Stone says. The operator spends all his time controlling the robot and none solving the problem. The time lag between seeing the image and sending a corrective control signal is another difficulty.

A virtual reality system consists of a helmet with a colour display in front of each eye, and wide-angle lenses to cover the entire field of view and give a stereoscopic effect. The helmet contains sensors, rather like electronic compasses, to record where it is pointing. A computer calculates what the

wearer should be seeing in that direction and displays it on the screen. In more advanced systems, the operator wears an electronic glove that detects exactly what the fingers are doing and transmits the information to the computer. If the user tries to pick up something, the computer will make the object follow the hand to give the illusion of carrying it.

Pads in the latest type of gloves press into the insides of the fingers and palm when an object is encountered, to create the illusion of feeling it. Complete "exoskeletons" covering the user and allowing the computer to simulate almost anything possible in real life are still in the laboratory.

A fire-fighter in a nuclear power plant, for example, would wear a computer model, wearing an exoskeleton, while a robot would move through the real thing. The computer program will be derived from the data used to design the plant in the first place.

Mr Stone has developed a data glove with air pockets that are inflated to give a sensation of touch, in collaboration with Airmuscle, the supplier of the pneumatic systems that made the *Spitting Image* puppets really spit. The biggest initial market is likely to be for a new generation of video games. W. Industries, of Leicester, recently launched a

virtual reality system for video games. The system, called Virtuality, consists of a cockpit in which a player sits, wearing the helmet, at a set of controls that can mimic a joystick, a spacebar or whatever the imagination of the games programmer can devise. The helmet has a pair of liquid crystal displays with wide-angle lenses giving a stereoscopic image, and a set of magnetic sensors to tell the computer what the helmet is looking at as it moves.

The first game is a fighter simulation. Another is based on a sequence in the film *Return of the Jedi*, in which flying motor cycles race through a forest. The computer can link and control several helmets at once for a group game.

# Great balls set scientists on fire

The discovery of soccer-ball shaped carbon molecules has caused a buzz in scientific circles, even though they may be useless

Scientists who have been excited by the properties of a new form of carbon are likely to become ecstatic when they read today's issue of *Nature*.

American researchers at AT&T Bell Laboratories in New Jersey report that the soccer-ball shaped molecules of a form of carbon known as fullerene behave as superconductors.

When doped with alkali metals and cooled to minus 255°C, fullerene conducts electricity with no resistance. The researchers' finding was both remarkable and unexpected.

Fullerene is already one of the brightest stars in chemistry, even though so far nobody can be certain what uses, if any, it is going to have. Everything about fullerene is extraordinary, not least the fact that a form of carbon, the atom that is present in all forms of life on Earth, had remained undiscovered until 1985. One of the scientists responsible for making that discovery, Harold Kroto, of Sussex University, has compared it to Columbus's voyage to the New World 500 years ago. What really set off the explosion of interest, however, was the more recent discovery of a method for making fullerene in worthwhile amounts, which was published at the end of last year. This method turned out to be so simple that it could be done in any school laboratory, using a welder, two graphite rods and a large container.

Fullerene consists of 60 atoms of carbon, arranged in a sphere with 32 faces, exactly like those of a football. This is the highest form of symmetry allowed by Euclidean geometry, in which the panels are composed of 12 pentagons and 20 hexagons. The structure is so reminiscent of the geodesic domes of the 20th century American architect and engineer Buckminster Fuller that the material was named buckminsterfullerene, or fullerene for short. American researchers often use an alternative name,

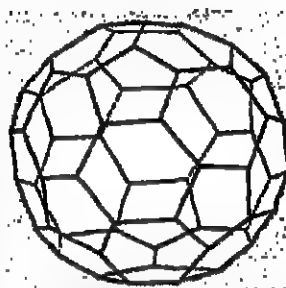
buckyballs. Two recent scientific meetings in the United States have been set buzzing by buckyballs as by no other recent discovery except high-temperature superconductors. Chemists cannot believe that such an elegant structure will prove useless. "What good are they? Who knows? But I would bet they are good for something," says Donald Huffman of Arizona University, one of the scientists responsible for synthesising fullerene.

Optimists have suggested that the tiny spheres of fullerene would make excellent lubricants, or vehicles for delivering new drugs. Others claim they may find uses in fuels, rechargeable batteries, electronic devices and high-strength materials.

The discovery of the first carbon ring-structure, benzene, produced a whole new field of organic chemistry, and some believe fullerene will do the same. Meanwhile, the chemists are enjoying themselves establishing the physical and chemical characteristics of fullerene. The involvement of both IBM and AT&T suggests that some companies share Dr Huffman's optimism. A few weeks ago the AT&T team discovered that doped fullerenes conduct electricity. The group has now found that they are superconductors if cooled to a low enough temperature.

Researchers are showing particular interest in how the fullerene molecules pack together in solids. In principle they could fit together face to face, leaving no gaps, but both IBM and AT&T agree that in practice they pack more like a pile of footballs, with plenty of space. This may explain how the metal atoms in the doped fullerenes flow through the structure to conduct electricity.

Even if fullerene is found to be useless, it has already proved, Dr Huffman says, that it is still possible to make remarkable discoveries at low cost, and have fun at the same time.



Exciting: the buckyball

NIGEL HAWKES

# The green, green grass that may help Africa

CABBAGES that remain a lush green and lush as never before could be common in Britain in the Nineties, thanks to genetic research at the Welsh Plant Breeding Station in Aberystwyth. The research results could even help Africa's famines.

Dr Howard Thomas, a biologist, investigated a meadow fescue grass species that did not turn yellow in winter and isolated a mutant gene that keeps the leaves green indefinitely. Conventional crossing techniques have successfully introduced this gene into rye

grass, the main grass type grown in the northern hemisphere. The next stage is to harness it for arable crops such as maize and wheat. Dr Thomas explains: "This would increase grain yields substantially because there is a direct link between greenness and the amount of grain produced. For example, keeping a field of maize green for one day longer can increase production by 5 per cent."

"At the moment, farmers use nitrogen fertiliser to extend the growing period. Far less would be needed if greenness was retained

genetically, so that a more environmentally friendly crop could be produced more cheaply than at present."

Such a crop should be available by 1995, if Dr Thomas's genetic engineering research goes according to plan. Progress will depend on the speed with which the normal colour-controlling genes of maize, wheat or cabbages can be identified because, until they are isolated and switched off, the mutant gene will not work. A painstaking identification process has begun and new ways of

inactivating plant genes is being pioneered.

The project could eventually boost the West's arable crop production and improve the grain output of crops in the world's arid zones. The people of Ethiopia and Sudan depend heavily on sorghum, which provides grain to eat and leaves for animal fodder and building. Increasing its productivity to alleviate starvation in sub-Saharan countries is one of Aberystwyth's priorities.

IOLA SMITH

## LEGAL NOTICES

**Continued from page 21**

**SHOEN CONSTRUCTION (OVERSEAS) LIMITED**  
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Notice is hereby given that the company has been dissolved under the provisions of the Companies Act 1948 and the Companies Act 1965 and that the company's affairs have been wound up and the company has been struck off the Register of Companies.

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# Dazzling Mystiko stakes his 2,000 Guineas claim

By RICHARD EVANS

MYSTIKO, who galloped alone on Newmarket Heath before most of the town's inhabitants are awake, caught his rivals napping in the Ladbrokes European Free Handicap yesterday to thrust himself into the 2,000 Guineas picture.

His impressive victory completed a marvellous 53-1 double for Clive Brittain following Terimon's repeat win in the Earl of Sefton Stakes half an hour earlier.

Mystiko's success left the bookmakers confused. Hills' post-race offer of 20-1 for the colt's classic vanished as quickly as the snow flurries in the Suffolk sunshine. Coral's quote of 16-1 did not last much longer and was trimmed, like the Hills price, to 12-1. The race sponsors went 10-1.

The last winner of the Free Handicap to taste classic success was Mrs McArdy in 1977

but Britain speaks of Mystiko in the same breath as Pebbles, his 1,000 Guineas winner. Michael Roberts, Britain's South African jockey, dismounted on a gallop last week to say no horse had given him such a good feel since Mito.

Mystiko, a \$150,000 purchase, shared the lead with Anzix for around six furlongs before displaying a rare zip of speed to leave his ten rivals in his wake.

The front-running tactics were a deliberate ploy after Mystiko failed to sparkle when held up behind Mujibid in the Gimcrack Stakes at York last August.

"The restraining tactics didn't suit him," Brittain explained. "I thought it left a bad impression in his mind. I could have run him again and won a good race but I thought I had a very good horse for this year, so I put him away early

which gave me a full winter to work on him and get him to relax and settle."

Mystiko is up before the pheasants, according to his trainer, and working alone on the gallops by 5.30 in the morning. "He works on his own because he has such tremendous speed. He burns other horses up and that discourages them."

The disappointment of the race was Flying Brave, who had been working impressively at home with both Marja, winter favourite for the 2,000 Guineas and Shadya, market leader for the 1,000 Guineas.

Perfectly placed behind the two front runners, John Dunlop's colt failed to find anything extra when the race began in earnest and finished fourth. "He got a bit tired and certainly wanted the race more than I thought he did. But I was slightly dis-

appointed," Dunlop said.

Lady Beavertree's brown and maple leaf green colours, carried by Mystiko, were earlier first past the post in the Earl of Sefton Stakes, but Terimon's victory was gained in contrasting style.

In a thrilling finish, six horses were abreast approaching the furlong pole with Terimon tucked in behind.

The 500-1 runner-up to Nashwan in the 1989 Derby likes nothing more than coming fast and late between horses. Roberts timed his run to perfection and swooped between Ruby Tiger and Stapleford Manor to hit the front about 75 yards from the line.

"He likes to come through horses and to get involved. Today was ideal and everything broke right for us. He is a courageous horse and I have always thought there is a group one race in him. I still do," Brittain said.

Farnham had been burning up the gallops according to the Pulborough grapevine and his winning performance in the Johnannes Guides Wood Ditton Stakes showed that the glowing home reputation was deserved. Although headed by Shaked three furlongs out, he galloped on relentlessly to win by 2½ lengths.

Pastorale is unlikely to take up her 1,000 Guineas entry but is certain to win good races before the season ends after an impressive winning debut in the Geoffrey Barling Maiden Stakes.



Classic chase: Mystiko and Michael Roberts surge clear to lead the European Free Handicap at Newmarket yesterday

## Norton's Coin defies critics

By PAUL WHEELER

NORTON'S Coin proved his critics wrong when winning the South Wales Stewards' Cup at Cheltenham yesterday.

The 1990 Gold Cup winner had been called mediocre after his defeat at Liverpool but here he put up a courageous performance to beat Waterford Boy by a head after an exciting tussle from the last.

Sirrell Griffiths, the winning trainer, said: "I wouldn't have

been disappointed if he'd been beaten as it was such a marvellous finish." On the question of the winner's gameness, he said: "He's totally genuine. He just doesn't like to jump a fence when he's in front but he doesn't mind jumping a hurdle."

Norton's Coin has yet to make his debut over the smaller obstacles but Griffiths is toying with an ambitious plan. "Graeme McCourt told me I should train him for the French Cham-

pion Hurdle in June. He's just coming to himself but we'll have to see how he is after this."

John McConnachie was the Marston's Pedigree Bitter Golden Miller Chase for a second successive season when Gale's Image sprang a 14-1 surprise.

John O'Dee led his rivals a merry dance and was still ahead at the last but Gale's Image belied his 11 years to overhaul the leader on the run-in.

## Eubank power should end Stretch challenge

By BRYAN STILES

BOXING thrives on hype. It is the oxygen which fuels the interest of the fight fans and turns them into paying customers eager to roll up and see the show. The big show in town tonight is, according to the promoters, the one featuring "Beauty v The Beast" at the Grand Hall, in London's Olympia.

They are hoping the hype has done the trick as there are 1,400 seats to fill. Under the spotlight in the red corner will be Chris Eubank who, for the purposes of the show, is billed as "The Beast" — a misnomer in the eyes of some.

Gary Stretch is also centre stage. He was handed with his billing as he is regarded as one of the beautiful people whose face and figure have been his fortunes, modelling clothes on the catwalk when he is not in the ring throwing punches.

He will be there to turn his stuff tonight, trying to take Eubank's World Boxing Organisation middleweight title — a daunting task when recalling the bruising encounter in which Eubank bludgeoned the title from Nigel Benn.

Stretch has been getting himself into shape for the ordeal with four weeks of intensive training in the Nevada desert. He estimates he has sparred 130 rounds with Virgil Hill, the World Boxing Association world light-heavyweight champion. Hill will soon take on Tommy Hearns, one of the idols of the sport, so Stretch's body should be in proper condition.

According to the ever-revolving publicity machine, he has employed the services of a Chinese to ensure his mind is in order. Michael Te is teaching Stretch how to

mediate and relax, using the Chinese Qigong method. The sessions are designed to help relieve anxiety if a patient is in a stressful situation. Few things could be more stressful than the prospect of facing a psyched-up, unbeaten Eubank in a tiny roped-off arena.

Stretch, the 6ft 2in former British light-middleweight champion, has lost only once in 23 bouts, many of which have shown him to be an accomplished performer. He has knocked out or stopped 14 opponents, but those were light-middleweights — notably different to the solid Eubank, who has shown he can take a punch and come back to win.

Stretch does have the advantage of being a talented and awkward southpaw, but the fact he has not fought for 11 months will tell against him. He claims to have found no cobwebs in his system despite the long lay-off, but by the time he has sorted out Eubank's unorthodox approach he will probably have taken a lot of punishment.

He boldly announced last week, when the hype was running hot, that he was going to take the fight to Eubank and "stand and trade punches". That would suit Eubank, whose eccentric demeanour and posing has got him noticed.

His costly head-butting against his last opponent, Don Sherry of Canada, embarrassed him and will make him determined to produce a worthwhile display tonight. He should end Stretch's challenge by the seventh round.

## Bruno ponders future

FRANK Bruno returned home yesterday with a question mark still hanging over his boxing future after an eye operation for a torn retina. The former British heavyweight champion said: "I haven't decided on that yet. I'm not going to rush into a decision like that."

Further examination will be necessary to assess any long-

term effects of the injury, which is thought to be a result of sustained during his world title bout with Mike Tyson two years ago. He underwent the hour-long operation at Manchester Royal Eye Hospital on Tuesday night, bandaged then Professor David Wood, who performed the operation, was advising him not to box again.

## Holyfield sees the score in old Moore's almanac

From SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, ATLANTIC CITY

EVANDER Holyfield may have to get up off the floor to retain his undisputed world heavyweight title against George Foreman tomorrow. That was the view of Lou Duva, the champion's chief trainer and manager.

With some clever and fanciful thinking, Duva thought yesterday that history could repeat itself. For the man who would be knocking Holyfield down would not be Foreman but the man behind the big man, Archie Moore.

Holyfield would see his Holyfield but Rocky Marciano.

Duva, then 33, was working in Marciano's corner that day in 1955. Like Foreman, Moore was 42 years old. The age difference was not quite the 14 years between Foreman and Holyfield now, but Marciano was a good ten years younger than Moore.

The old man floored Marciano in the second. But Marciano recovered to win in the sixth.

"The closest thing to Rocky Marciano today is Evander Holyfield," Duva said, surprising those who know that the fighting styles of the two could not be more different.

"I got the tape of Archie Moore's fights and gave it to Evander," Duva said. "This is the guy you are fighting. I said, Moore can teach you his own boxing." Holyfield was particularly interested in the bout between Moore and Marciano.

With Marciano in view, Holyfield's plan is to "punch on the old man and keep him on the defensive and off balance."

Holyfield's assistant trainer, "Professor" George Benton, said: "George has always been a pitcher, he has

never been a catcher. I always look at George Foreman as a tree. I have never seen a tree that could not be chopped down. When he is defending, he can't punch. Holyfield is going to be hitting him so much he'll think it is raining in his face."

Duva is hoping that Holyfield does not receive a Foreman special on the chin even if the work rate of his man will be four to one.

The champion wanted to quit when in trouble against Michael Dokes. "In the eighth round, I was asking myself 'Do I want to be here?'" he said. "People don't realise that there is a thin line between fighting and quitting. I wanted to quit but didn't. I was too strong mentally for that. Dokes pushed me to the other level. He made me face adversity every fight."

It was a reaction typical of a man who has been conditioned by four specialist coaches. No doubt his disci-

pline has also helped him face up to his divorce and family worries and the financial difficulties of his career.

Holyfield said: "As long as I'm on this earth, there is always going to be a problem. But I have been blessed with concentration."

Holyfield, a quiet man, too quiet for some publicity men, has taken the back seat in the pre-fight preliminaries, letting Foreman do all the talking, the funny lines: "Don't you get smart or I'll put you inside two slices of bread and eat you" or "If he runs people will say, 'What's he running from a senior citizen?'"

It does not bother him that Foreman has been getting all the attention. "If it wasn't for him fighting me, no one would be thinking about what George is saying," Holyfield said. But the champion, who does not want to live in the shadow of the people's champion, Mike Tyson, and craves respect from the public, is not slow to give respect to the old man he meets tomorrow.

He admits that beating Foreman will probably not help his credibility, but he looks up to the more experienced former world champion. "A lot of people think George hasn't been the best competition," Holyfield said. "But he hits very hard and is strong enough to conserve his energy. I give him all the respect. In time, I believe, respect will come to me, too. I guess my hope is that reality for people will snap back once this fight is over. They'll say, 'Here's a guy who trained hard and worked hard to attain his goal.' I figure, sooner or later, they'll come around."



Holyfield saw Marciano

## Laing bows out as age takes its toll

KIRKLAND Laing, the grand but unpredictable veteran of British boxing, bows out of the sport on Tuesday night with the accolade of "a brilliant fighter". It came from his manager, Mickey Duff, after Laing's unsuccessful attempt to take the Commonwealth welterweight title from Donovan Beecher in Nottingham.

Age finally caught up with Laing, aged 36, and he was knocked out by a left hook after two minutes 34 seconds of the ninth round. There were flashes of Laing's genius, but at the stage of his career, his reflexes have dulled and he was hit, too often by the Canadian.

Laing and Duff had agreed that retirement was the only course in the event of defeat — and Laing was true to his word as he quit almost 16 years to the day after he turned professional.

"He's been a brilliant fighter and went out in a blaze of glory," Duff said. "This was definitely one of the best fights of his career."

"If he had become world champion, everyone would

have copied his style. He had great anticipation, and nobody can teach you to drop your hands and make the other man miss."

It was Laing's third defeat in succession following the loss of his European title to Patrizio Oliva, of Italy, and British crown to Deroy Bryan.

Laing said: "I've had a lot of fun in boxing and I wouldn't have missed it for anything. Boxing is a hard, rough, tough and vicious sport, but I've always enjoyed and relished the challenge. But now I've had enough of this game."

It was only the Nottingham crowd which kept me going. From time to time, I will keep touch with the sport by going down to the gym to teach the kids. But that's something I've been doing since I was 12 years old."

Laing had his moments against the strong champion from Toronto via Jamaica. He threw some outstanding combinations and was willing to trade blows, but it was evident that age had finally caught up.

## Irwin in ABA final

JOHN Irwin, the Commonwealth Games gold medal winner, needed to call on all his experience to reach the final of the George Wimpey ABA British championships.

The Doncaster featherweight won a unanimous points decision against Paul Semmeh, of Newport, in the semi-finals in Blackpool. The can now look forward to collecting more silverware at the Albert Hall on May 7.

Peter Culahe, at light-flyweight, and Mickey Horobin, at flyweight, scored convincing inside-the-distance victories. Culahe, from Hurton, stopped Mark Hughes, of Gwent, in the second round, and Horobin, who is from the St Pancras club, knocked out Sean Ross, of Swansea, in the third.

Two other Welsh boxers, Jason Mathews and Joseph Calzaghe, who had opted to compete in the ABA tournament instead of the European championships, justified their decisions with unanimous victories.

Mathews, of Aberbargoed, a Commonwealth Games representative last year, and ABA finalist in 1989, beat Adrian Stone, of Bristol, while Calzaghe, of Newbridge, proved too strong for Vincent Rose, of London, and won on points.

The defending light-middleweight champion, Tim Taylor, from London, also had a comfortable victory over Justin Fielding, of Mold, who was having only his fifth fight.

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## SPORTS LETTERS

### Case for consensus decision

From Mr Alan Trehanne

Sir, As a Nottingham Forest supporter watching the FA Cup semi-final on television last Sunday, I was dismayed yet again to witness how the decision of the referee, Keith Hackett, in sending off Tony Gale, of West Ham, spoiled for many people what should have been a fine sporting spectacle.

Mr Hackett's decision, although he appeared not to be well sighted, seemed to be made without consultation with his linesmen. Whether the decision was right or wrong, surely this incident reinforces the need to see the presence of umpires cameras around the ground, not

only for the benefit of the viewers but also for the purpose of monitoring such incidents by a panel of judges, at all the top games.

Such a system works in America, where the panel of judges looks at video replays from several angles before making a decision on sending-off if made. This decision is then relayed to the referee through an earpiece.

The timescales involved are only a few seconds and would not interrupt the flow of the game, but more importantly would enable a decision to be reached by consensus of opinion, thus greatly reducing such controversy, disappointment and the resultant risk directed towards the referee.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN TREHANNE,  
Alma Court,  
80 Alma Road,  
Milefield, Peterborough,  
Cambridgeshire.

### Days of Pegasus were fun

From Mr R. G. Dawson

Sir, My heart was warmed by David Miller's article (April 9) on Pegasus FC, who gave me two marvellous Amateur Cup finals in the days when I enjoyed watching football. The incredible coverings when a goal was scored had not become the norm, the so-called professional foul was rare, sendings-off were infrequent and the ridiculous two-legged European competitions were unheard of.

I then read Colin Cowdrey (April 13), another true sportsman, on his hopes for cricket, which has deteriorated since the introduction of the one-day knockouts and the open flooding of the rules in Test matches.

What a pity it is that sport has become a serious business; it used to be such fun for spectators and, I suspect, players.

Yours sincerely,  
R. G. DAWSON,  
15 Brookwood Avenue,  
Bickley, Kent.

From Mr Edward Grayson

Sir, David Miller might have added to his admirably evocative recollections of Pegasus the reason for its inception, as suggested by the founder, H. W. (later Sir Harold) Thompson, on the eve of his first Wembley final in 1951:

"While admiring the rising skill of the football players who were with some dismay the effects of prejudice being provided a channel for the flow of emotions behind them, the professional ranks were slowly moving over the country. Within a generation this might prove disastrous and damage our national prestige. It was in the world of International Soccer which this country has done so much to create, for without a veritable host of supporters behind them, the professional ranks were slowly moving over the country. Within a generation this might prove disastrous and damage our national prestige. It was in the world of International Soccer which this country has done so much to create, for without a veritable host of supporters behind them, the professional ranks were slowly moving over the country. Within a generation this might prove disastrous and damage our national prestige. 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# SPORT

## Souness eases back into the Anfield limelight

By IAN ROSS

GRAEME Souness began a new chapter in the illustrious history of Liverpool Football Club without fuss yesterday but he gave signs that he may be more forthcoming about his methods than his predecessor, Kenny Dalglish.

Less than 24 hours after resigning as the manager of Rangers, with three years of his contract left to run, Souness met his new playing staff, renewing some old acquaintances in the process.

Souness was so keen to emphasize that Liverpool is now "his" club that he went so far as to allow reporters, photographers and cameramen into Melwood, the club's training ground, to record the exact moment he met the Liverpool players.

It was the first time he had entered Liverpool's tactical research centre since he left Merseyside to join the Italian club, Sampdoria, in 1984, and he said: "It was good to see some familiar faces, even if they did look a little older."

He supervised his first training session then promptly returned to Anfield, swapping his muddled kit

for more formal attire and holding his second press conference of the day.

If nothing else, it seems certain that his arrival at Anfield will signal a change, long overdue, in the club's public relations. Dealing with the media was a task which Dalglish never managed to treat as much more than a hindrance.

Souness was surprised when informed that the locally based national and local newspaper representatives would only require 30 minutes of his time on days preceding first-team fixtures. He said: "In Scotland, they were around all the time."

Inevitably, his first task was to refute suggestions that the team he has inherited was on the verge of surrendering the championship without a fight. "I have watched them in recent weeks and, in footballing terms, they are still streets ahead of the rest," he said.

"What has happened this season can be put down to circumstances such as Kenny Dalglish going, injuries and the fact that this season has followed the World Cup finals."

Souness agreed the challenge of



Old friends: Souness, left, enjoys a joke with players Hysen, Rush and Whelan yesterday

ensuring that Liverpool continues to dominate English football is likely to prove even more demanding than that he faced when he arrived at Ibrox in 1986. "I would say, categorically, that this club is in better shape than Rangers was when I arrived

there," he said. "There is a difference, however, because expectations are much higher here. When I went to Rangers, they hadn't won the title for ten years. If Liverpool don't win the championship, it has been a bad season."

"There is a lot of work to be done in the next few years but that is for the future. At the moment, we still have a chance of winning the League championship and I am just hoping that someone can do us a favour when playing against Arsenal."

Although Souness will take charge of team affairs for the League game against Norwich City at Anfield on Saturday, he will be guided, in terms of selection, by Ronnie Moran, who has reverted to the role of senior coach after eight weeks as Liverpool's caretaker manager.

"I will be learning more from him than he will be learning from me," he said. "I believe we have some of the best players in Britain here and one of this club's secrets is that the so-called outstanding players work just as hard as the bread-and-butter players."

"If we succeed, we shall do so as a team; if we fail, we shall do so as a team. There is pressure in every job but I shall be well paid to handle the pressure of being manager of Liverpool."

Souness will not hesitate to accept advice from whatever source in the months ahead. Indeed, he expects to consult Dalglish about certain aspects of his new job in the not too distant future.

"Kenny is my best friend within the game and one of my best friends outside it," he said. "I

know that he will volunteer any information which he may feel I will find useful."

Souness was last night wondering whether or not a touchline ban imposed in Scotland was still applicable following his move south (Clive White writes). The Football Association would not comment yesterday until they had examined the terms of the Scottish FA ban.

It does seem, though, that Souness should be able to take his place in the Anfield dug-out for his first match in charge against Norwich on Saturday. A spokesman for the Scottish FA, who posted the details to their English counterparts last night, said: "It was a domestic ban in that it only applied to matches played under our jurisdiction. It didn't apply to UEFA competitions."

The ban on Souness — for swearing — should have ended in May of last year but a television camera captured him in the tunnel during a game against Heart of Midlothian at Ibrox, and the suspension was extended until the end of next season.

## Cox appeals for buyer to save Derby County

By DENNIS SEAW

ARTHUR Cox, the Derby County manager, has appealed for a purchaser of the stricken football club to emerge quickly to secure the future of his coveted international pair, Dean Saunders and Mark Wright of England.

Cox was speaking in response to comments by his chairman, Robert Maxwell, on television the previous day, when he said Saunders and Wright would have to be sold to clubs "who could afford to pay their wages".

The Derby manager is aware that if Saunders and Wright, and possibly others, do leave, then a further slide in playing fortunes after relegation to the second division will be almost inevitable.

Maxwell's attempts to sell Derby have not been successful so far, and Cox's fear, along with relegation, is that interested clubs — including Liverpool and Aston Villa — cannot be denied much longer. "All I can do is make a sincere and genuine plea for somebody, be it a man, a lady,

a business consortium or any group of people, to please come and buy this club," he said.

"Please approach Mr Maxwell, do it properly and get it sorted out. It is very obvious that Mr Maxwell wants to sell and wants to do so quickly."

Cox is alarmed at the prospect of the team he took from the third division to a commanding place in the first before slipping back again, now losing its prime assets.

Although he was careful in his choice of words, he is fearful that, if in excess of £4 million was raised by the sale of Wright, the England centre half, and Saunders, the Welsh forward partner for Ian Rush, little or none of it would be made available for adequate replacements.

Maxwell's remarks, when being interviewed for BBC TV in New York, suggested that the football public of Derby and smaller surrounding towns and villages did not deserve a first-division club because it had not shown sufficient support. "What business of theirs is it what I

do with my money?" he asked in answer to a query about his feelings on adverse public reaction to the impending sales.

The transfer of Wright and Saunders to settle outstanding commitments, followed by the sale of the club for a lower figure than the £8 million frequently quoted, seems the obvious implication.

Cox instructed Wright and Saunders to say nothing publicly on the subject, although the situation is clearly unsettling for them.

Saunders restricted himself to commenting: "I shall just carry on as normal. As long as I am a Derby player I will continue to give them my best."

Liverpool, now led by Graeme Souness, who has been given the go-ahead by his board to strengthen his team, will be the first in the queue for either or both, and will be clear favourites.

But all of the top clubs and some from abroad will be among those interested. Aston Villa are keen on the pair, having attempted to purchase Wright less than a year ago.

They have some financial muscle but, after a season when they fell from runners-up under Graham Taylor to strugglers in the hands of the former Czechoslovakian national coach, Jozef Venglos, would probably be outbid.

**BRUSSELS** — Guy Thys said yesterday that the European championship qualifying match against Germany next month could be his last match as Belgium's coach (Reuters reports). He said there were three candidates to succeed him — the Bruges coach, Georges Leekens, Robert Waseige of Liege, and the former international, Paul Van Himst.

### Problems mount for Vogts

**HANOVER** (Reuters) — Bert Vogts, the German football manager, facing a growing list of injured defenders, called up Dietmar Beiersdorfer, of Hamburg, yesterday for the European championship match against Belgium next month.

Beiersdorfer, aged 27, was the only new face in a 20-man squad that included 13 members of West Germany's World Cup-winning squad and two former East German internationals, Thomas Doll and Matthias Sammer.

Guido Buchwald, of Stuttgart, who is out with a torn ankle ligament, was excluded from the squad for the match, to be played on May 1 in Hanover.

Three other players in the party are injured. Joergen Kohler, of Bayern Munich, has a muscle tear in the thigh, Andreas Brehme, of Inter Milan, has a broken toe, and Rudi Voeller, of AS Roma, also has a torn thigh muscle.



Facing the future with fingers crossed: Frank Bruno, the British heavyweight boxer, returns to his home in Essex yesterday after undergoing an eye operation in Manchester. Career in doubt, page 36

## Hick warms to the task

By ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

**LORD'S** (second day of four): MCC, with seven first-innings wickets standing, are 206 runs behind Middlesex.

The crowd at Lord's numbered only a few hundred yesterday, and until 5.20pm they had to rely for their entertainment on a demonstration from Philip Tufnell that, despite winter evidence to the contrary, he really can bat and field.

Then came the entrance of Graeme Hick, instantly elevating the day to a different plane. Hick's first innings as a qualified Englishman began with five balls from a disqualified Englishman, John Emburey. With regal disdain, he dispatched them for four fours and a three, the last run with a reluctance which suggested he wished to deal exclusively in boundaries.

Hick was made to look mortal by Neil Williams, who twice hit him on the shoulder with rising balls, but Hick will resume today on 57, and it might be worth braving the weather to see it.

Up to when Hick sprinted down the pavilion steps, this

had been a day designed for pondering the value of this fixture. It has been a tradition for more than 20 years now but as it is played when few are in authentic form or fitness and when the weather is invariably hostile, it can often develop in to an uncomfortable exercise in futility.

This was certainly the case yesterday when play was regularly interrupted by the fall of something wintry (snow is not expected until later today), and the full England squad adjourned indoors, though only after David Gower had shaved his way through a longer net than he customarily likes at this time of year.

Hick's first contribution of the day was to catch Brown off a second slip, which looked simpler than it can have been with frozen fingers. Downton, having been relieved by Bicknell at short-leg, obligingly steered Watkin to gully, and when Emburey and Headley quickly followed, the latter fortunate to last for three balls, the champions' innings seemed about to subside quickly. Instead, we were to witness an improbable stand of 55 for the ninth

wicket between Williams, who whipped two sixes to the short Grandstand boundary, and Tufnell, whose progress to within three of his career-best score included being missed twice in a Moulton over.

The second drop was committed by Illingworth who hurried to retrieve the ball and comfortably ran out Williams, who had been ambitiously called for a second run. Tufnell failed to prosper, Hussain taking a one-handed catch over his shoulder at cover which was twice as difficult as the slip chance he had earlier spilled.

The three Middlesex seam bowlers, all of Caribbean descent, could have been accused a different start in driving sleep, but Headley, registered only recently from Worcestershire, showed deceptive pace on a pitch which had quickened since Tuesday. Only 21, and the son of the former West Indies opener Ron, Headley could not have anticipated making his first-class debut so rapidly. But he looks a useful acquisition.

Williams also summoned some impressive speed and bounce, enough to have

Bicknell caught at long-leg misreading a hook and Morris taken at second slip. Both made 44, and will be vying for attention this summer should anything befall Gooch or Atherton.

Fairbrother fell to an ugly pull, his stumps spreadeagled to give Headley his maiden wicket, but Hick reached his 50, from 45 balls, with his tenth four. It came, as had his first, by courtesy of a Tufnell misfield.

**MIDDLESEX** First Innings  
M A Richardson (capt) b Thompson 18  
J C Popley b Morrison 17  
J J F Hazlewood c Morris b Thompson 70  
D Bingleworth 28  
M R Downton c Fairbrother b Williams 32  
JP J Emburey c Headley b Watson 4  
MF Williams run out 29  
PW Headley b Pisk 29  
PC R Tufnell c Hussain b Morrison 54  
M G Hussain not out 11  
Extras (6 b, 12 nb, 3) 17  
Total 277  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-38, 2-189, 3-202, 4-246, 5-282, 6-320, 7-317, 8-318, 9-370.  
BOWLING: Pisk 27-4-52, Watson 20-4-28, Morrison 11-7-42, Thompson 10-5-49, Bingleworth 22-4-16, Hick 4-0-10-0.

**MCC** First Innings  
D J Bicknell c Headley b Williams 44  
M A Richardson c Headley b Williams 57  
G A Hick not out 57  
M G Hussain c Headley b Williams 11  
M Hussain not out 11  
Extras (6 b, 12 nb, 3) 17  
Total 171  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-38, 2-189, 3-202, 4-246, 5-282, 6-320, 7-317, 8-318, 9-370.  
BOWLING: Pisk 27-4-52, Watson 20-4-28, Morrison 11-7-42, Thompson 10-5-49, Bingleworth 22-4-16, Hick 4-0-10-0.

## Samaranch gives the go-ahead to S Africa

**BARCELONA** (Reuters) — Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), yesterday gave his blessing to South Africa's possible participation in the world athletics championships in Tokyo in August.

There has been speculation that Olympic leaders were keen to be the first to welcome South Africa back to the international sporting arena at the Olympic Games next year in Barcelona.

However, Samaranch said that the IOC would be happy to see South Africa in Tokyo. The republic's return to the Olympics, from which it was

expelled in 1970, and the lifting of an international athletics suspension imposed in 1976, depend on the removal of remaining apartheid laws.

President F.W. de Klerk has promised that the statute books will be cleaned up by the end of June.

At the same time, South African sports leaders are working towards a unified national sports structure to meet the IOC's conditions for a return to the Olympic movement.

The conditions were imposed at the end of an IOC mission to South Africa in March.

## Auguin homes in on record

By BARRY PICKTHILL

CHRISTOPHE Auguin, the French solo yachtsman leading the last stage of the BOC single-handed round the world race, looks set to break the 120-day barrier for the 27,000-mile circumnavigation, two weeks inside the existing record.

Speeding along at 12 knots yesterday, the Frenchman's 60ft yacht, Groupe Soeta, was within 1,300 miles of the finish at Newport, Rhode Island, having built up an 88-mile lead over Alain Gamiel's Generali Concord.

Auguin is confident of reaching the American port on Monday, but less certain whether he can also beat Auguin by the 21 hours sec-

essary to lift the overall honours for the race.

Josh Hall, of Britain, continues to hold third place among the Class 2 fleet but has slipped 89 miles behind Don McIntyre, who is second-placed in the Australian 50-footer, Buttercup. A week ago, the rivals were within sight of each other.

Robin Davies, from Cornwall, is enjoying better luck among the Corinthians. His 44-foot yacht, Global Exposure, the smallest in the fleet of 18 survivors, has led its class since the outset of this final 6,000-mile stage from Punta del Este, Uruguay, and has a

135-mile lead over Paul Thackaberry, the man in second place in Volcano.

Thackaberry, from the United States, has suffered a broken bowsprit but his four-and-a-half day lead built up earlier in the race, looks secure enough.

**LEADING POSITIONS** (as 0600 GMT yesterday with miles to Newport, Rhode Island): 1. Josh Hall (Brit), 1,220 miles; 2. Gamiel (Genl), 1,309 miles; 3. Thackaberry (US), 1,448 miles; 4. McIntyre (Aus), 1,537 miles; 5. Davies (Corn), 1,626 miles; 6. Gamiel (Genl), 1,715 miles; 7. Hall (Brit), 1,804 miles; 8. Davies (Corn), 1,893 miles; 9. Thackaberry (US), 1,982 miles; 10. Hall (Brit), 2,071 miles; 11. Davies (Corn), 2,160 miles; 12. Thackaberry (US), 2,249 miles; 13. Davies (Corn), 2,338 miles; 14. Thackaberry (US), 2,427 miles; 15. Davies (Corn), 2,516 miles; 16. Thackaberry (US), 2,605 miles; 17. Davies (Corn), 2,694 miles; 18. Thackaberry (US), 2,783 miles.

## Women demand equal payment

By ANDREW LONGMORE  
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE \$6 million Grand Slam Cup, boycotted last year by Boris Becker and won by Pete Sampras, who took home \$2 million for his victory, ran into further trouble last night over the possible inclusion of women in this year's event in Munich in December.

After several months of talks between the Grand Slam Committee, which controls the event, and the Women's Tennis Association (WTA), the governing body of the women's game, the board of the WTA yesterday issued a challenge to the committee to invite the top 16 women to compete this year. But, said the board, only on condition that they received equal prize money to the men at the Grand Slam Cup and, more significantly, in all the grand slams during the year.

There was a strong feeling in the women's game that they should have been included in initial plans for the Grand Slam Cup. But the organisers want only the top eight women qualifiers, not 16 as the WTA insist to take part this year, half the size of the draw for the men, with the prize-money distributed proportionally.

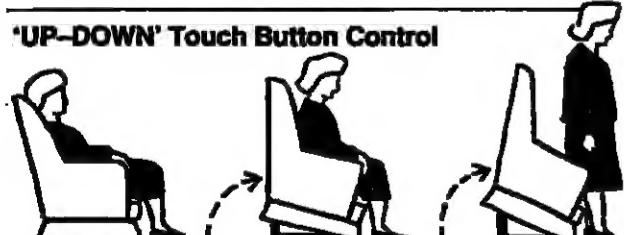
"It would be ludicrous for anyone to expect us to accept less than equal prize money or draw size at the Grand Slam Cup and we are certainly not backing off on our long-standing efforts to secure equal prize-money at the French Open and Wimbledon," said the Wimbledon champion Martina Navratilova, who is a member of the WTA executive committee.

By asking the Grand Slam Committee to issue their invitation, the WTA have brought the dispute out into the open and forced the committee's hand.

"The proposals about equal prize-money at all the grand slams come as a complete surprise to us. We will have to consider them and review our position," Billie Jean King, chief administrator of the Grand Slam Committee said.

Wimbledon is due to announce its prize fund for the 1991 championships later this month but it is unlikely to follow the US and Australian Opens in equalising the prize-money, at least this year.

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